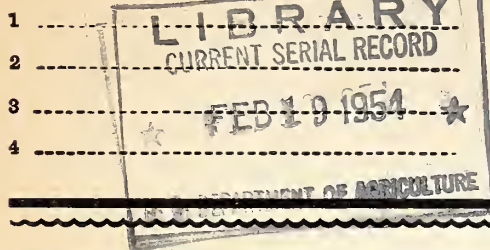


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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 13, 1954

To All Department Employees

With the advent of the New Year, 1954, I wish to express my appreciation for the services you have rendered during the year just past.

The achievements of the Department of Agriculture during 1953 have been well written into history. As time places our accomplishments in their proper perspective, they seem certain to be recognized as contributions of lasting worth to agriculture.

I am proud to have had a part in these accomplishments. I am also pleased that you have had the same opportunity.

We move into the New Year after several months of painstaking preparation of an agricultural program tailored to

the philosophy of President Eisenhower and his Administration. Thus we can look ahead to even greater achievement in 1954.

It is gratifying to know that every member of the Department will play a role in reaching this new goal. With a full measure of continued cooperation and loyalty, and with the blessings of a kind Providence, I am confident we can attain a constant betterment of agriculture and thereby a more satisfying way of life for all Americans.

With sincere good wishes.

EZRA TAFT BENSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

Operating loans for farmers

SECRETARY BENSON has listed types of loans available to farmers through the Farmers Home Administration to help farmers and stockmen meet their credit needs for feed, seed, livestock, and equipment. They are the regular farm operating loan program, the special livestock loans, and, in designated disaster areas, the disaster loan program. Through the operating loan program, farmers may borrow to buy corn, hay, cottonseed meal, and any other kind of available feed. The special livestock loans help livestock farmers to buy feed and hay, obtain pasture facilities, replace livestock to normal levels, and to handle other needs brought on by drought conditions. These loans are restricted to established producers of cattle, sheep, and goats, and are to help farmers carry on normal livestock production rather than for expansion of operations. Disaster loans are made only in areas designated by Secretary Benson as disaster loan areas. These are counties or States where severe weather or other conditions

have caused substantial production losses or where unfavorable local economic and credit conditions have made emergency credit necessary for continued operation. These loans are distinct from other types handled by FHA providing credit for buying and improving efficient farms and buildings.

30 years of Scott County

After 30 years as county agent of Scott County, Ark., B. S. Hinkle retired January 1. In a once wasted cotton county he took the lead in establishing a sound livestock economy. He came to Washington in 1935 to secure a soil conservation demonstration area for Scott County. He got it, and now a soil conservation district has replaced that project. Hinkle credits his success to local cooperation.

Tank trucks for cherries?

Michigan cherry growers lost a lot of labor, time, and lug boxes getting the fruit to the cannery. State College and USDA engineers last season tested the use of tank trucks for transporting tart red cherries. The fruit was cooled and firmed at the receiving plant, then placed in the tank trucks containing water for "cushioning." Unloading was also made easy. Although the new method is not yet in commercial use, at least one cannery expects to use it during the 1954 season.

Mind and skill win the day

MIND AND skill of individuals, not mere numbers of people, should be the first consideration in choosing men and women for government and industry, in the opinion of Thomas R. Reid, of the Ford Motor Co. and Office of Defense Mobilization, who spoke December 16, at the OPEDA luncheon. Mr. Reid noted a change in view—from scraping the barrel for quantity of manpower, to selecting men for their special qualities.

Mr. Reid says the American people need to be informed on just how much the technically skilled worker is needed and how scarce he is in many lines before they can effectively demand that personnel be put to the best use. "A chemist should not be taken on to wash bottles. A skilled watchmaker may be indispensable in a plant making sensitive proximity fuses." And we need to get the facts on new annual classes of students and manpower so that we may pick the right people for key slots in research, and in machine making and in defense and administration. The general employment situation is good, but it is surprising to find out how short we are on persons fitted for key responsibilities. Of one employee it was said, "He is 1 of only 4 men in the country capable of filling his job." One such man may be worth more to the U. S. A. than the biggest building of brick and stone. If it should come about that we must call for a general mobilization, Mr. Reid thinks it would be vital to list all citizens according to their special skills. Scientific advisory boards could be set up to assist local boards in making the best selections, on a basis of the individual's skills and potential.

Big crop year, 1953

The 1953 volume of crops was practically equal to that for 1952, the second largest in history. The composite yield index is given as 152 percent of the 1923-32 base. The 2 years were exceeded only by 1948, with an index of 135. Most of the crops ranked higher than average, but a few, including rice, sugarcane, oranges, cranberries, tung nuts, and fresh vegetables set new records. The area harvested was nearly 340½ million acres, slightly less than in 1952 or any of the 7 years 1943-49. These figures are from AMS report, 1953 Annual Summary.

Hide-and-seek viruses

We often wonder how the distemper virus gets into our dogs and pet stock. John H. Gorham of the Fur Animal Disease Research Laboratory, ARS, thinks the disease should be studied in nature as well as in the laboratory. Otherwise, how shall we find out how the virus gets from one animal to another? Quoting the British virologist Andrews, he says: "Life for most viruses is not all beer and skittles; there will come a time when fresh, juicy, susceptible hosts are not available. What we would like to know is where does the distemper virus hide between outbreaks."

Milestone for PCA's

THE NATION'S 499 PCA's have completed 20 years of service to American agriculture. In two decades, these short-term production credit cooperatives, operated by farmers under charters granted by the Farm Credit Administration, have made a notable record.

In those 20 years the farmers have borrowed \$13 billion from their PCA's. These credit cooperatives obtain their lending funds from the 12 Federal intermediate credit banks. The banks in turn raise the money by selling debentures (short-term bonds) to large investors in the Nation's money market.

But important as the \$13 billion was to farmers who borrowed it to use in their farm businesses it is no measure of how important PCA's have been to farmers. That's only a beginning. Farmers generally agree that even more important to them has been the pace PCA's have set for 20 years in developing and adapting credit practices to the ever-changing needs of modern farming. Here are some of the specific accomplishments of PCA's in 20 years:

One-half million farmers are members.

Started mostly with Government capital, farmers' capital today has replaced all but \$5.2 million of the original \$90 million the Government invested in them. Now 295, or 59 percent, of the 499 PCA's have entirely repaid their Government capital. In one Farm Credit district in Texas, all 36 PCA's are farmer-owned.

A large share of the members use the budgeted loan—a plan made generally available from PCA's. Its basic principle is planned financing. A farmer anticipates his credit needs early in the year and arranges for one loan, with the funds being advanced as he needs them. He repays the loan as he sells his crops or livestock. He pays interest only for the actual number of days he has each dollar.

The PCA's policy of looking carefully into repayment ability of the project financed has helped farmers to use their credit where it will produce the most income for them.

PCA's have worked constantly to get better credit to farmers at lower cost and help them build financial strength in their business. Farmer members have helped build the financial strength of their PCA's by keeping their loans in good shape and by investing in capital stock.

Summed up, farmers have built a dependable source of credit and thus forged a strong new farm tool for helping themselves do a better job of farming.

Cites 12 agronomists

JOHN H. MARTIN, senior agronomist, in the Agricultural Research Service, was one of the USDA employees recently named fellows of the American Society of Agronomy. Dr. Martin made his mark in the Department by his persistent fight for better sorghums, particularly in propagation of more productive, nutritious, drought resistant, and harvestable strains of grain sorghums. His investigations also led to improved harvesting methods.

The 12 fellows named were: R. E. Blaser, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; F. V. Buralow, University of Wisconsin; J. A. Chucka, Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, Inc., West Springfield, Mass.; E. E. Down, Michigan State College; R. D. Hockensmith SCS, Washington, D. C.; J. H. Martin, Beltsville; L. A. Richards (soils), U. S. Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, Calif.; M. B. Russell, University of Illinois; F. B. Smith, University of Florida; M. G. Weiss (soybeans project), ARS, Beltsville; G. A. Wiebe (barley), ARS, Beltsville; and Eric Winters, University of Tennessee.

Dr. Weiss has been recently named Director of Field Crops Research, ARS.

Dr. F. L. Mulford dies

Dr. Furman Lloyd Mulford, 84, who retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1939, died at St. Petersburg, Fla., December 12. A well-known horticulturist who propagated hardy perennials, early flowering chrysanthemums, and other ornamentals, he wrote numerous bulletins on rock gardens, flowering perennials, landscaping, and roadside planting. Born in New Jersey, he was graduated from Cornell, and began work here in 1911. He is survived by his brother, Dr. Walter Mulford, forester, of Berkeley, Calif.

Dr. Mulford wrote the rose book, *Farmers' Bulletin 750*, in 1916. It was superseded in 1953 by the highly popular *Home and Garden Bulletin No. 25, Roses for the Home*. One of his mums, the *Algonquin*, is still a favorite in the District of Columbia.

Yes, we have apples

Apples are in fairly good supply this year, only 15 percent less than average production, according to Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. Drought reduced sizes in the Appalachian area. There was practically no orchard abandonment. The 10 leading varieties in 1953, with the 1952 production in parentheses, are estimated in thousands of bushels, as follows: Delicious 21,081 (20,877), McIntosh 12,105 (7,190), Winesap 10,090 (10,353), Rome Beauty 6,428 (6,229), Jonathan 6,291 (5,509), Stayman 4,223 (3,704), Yellow Newtown 3,384 (4,501), Golden Delicious 3,160 (3,344), Rhode Island Greening 2,690 (1,255), York Imperial 2,682 (5,237).

A. W. "Andy" McKay retires

A. W. "ANDY" McKAY retired from the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, November 30. (This division became the Farmer Cooperative Service, Federal-State Relations Group, on December 4.) Born in Nova Scotia, graduated from Cornell University, "Andy" began his work with the Department in 1908. He did fruit storage and transportation investigations with G. Harold Powell, then chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who for his services to the Department and the cooperative growers is honored by a plaque in the Administration Building.

Andy McKay rode fruit trains from coast to coast and learned how to improve refrigeration. He helped organize fruit and vegetable producers in the Northwest and the Southeast, and wrote bulletins, articles for the Yearbook of Agriculture, and a textbook on "Practical Cooperative Marketing." In 1944-45, he was sent to Iran on a land and marketing program. For his achievements he was given the Superior Service Award in May 1953. In a letter to Mr. McKay, Secretary Benson wrote: "Your record is a thumbnail sketch of half a century of agricultural marketing and cooperative progress."

Fellowship in fats, oils

A FELLOWSHIP for research on fatty acids derived from domestic fats and oils has been established in the U. S. Department of Agriculture by the Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers. This project will be part of the Department's research program aimed at finding new uses and wider markets for the increasing surplus of fats and oils, which in 1952 was about 700 million pounds. The study will be directed particularly to research aimed at broadening the industrial application of fatty acids, which comprise 90 percent of the weight of our domestic fats and oils. The research will be supervised by the Agricultural Research Service's Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in Philadelphia, where the work will be done. Research has opened up markets for domestic fats in such diverse fields as plastics, plasticizers, hot-dip tinning, synthetic rubber manufacture, and animal feeds.

Storey replaces Wilm

Herbert C. Storey has been appointed Chief of the Division of Forest Influences in the United States Forest Service. Mr. Storey succeeds Harold G. Wilm, who has joined the faculty of Syracuse University, New York.

Rizley Assistant Secretary

ROSS RIZLEY, farmer, teacher, lawyer, and former Congressman from Oklahoma, has been appointed by President Eisenhower to the post of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. He was sworn in and began his duties in the office of Secretary Ezra Taft Benson, December 19. His appointment will go to the Senate for confirmation. He succeeds Romeo E. Short, who resigned last September. Assistant Secretary Rizley was born near Beaver, Okla., in 1892. After schooling and teaching in his native county, he entered the University of Kansas City, Mo., where he received a degree of LL. D. in 1915. He set up a general law practice in Texas County, Okla., and became a member of the State Bar and the American Bar Association.

He was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate and served 4 years, ran for Governor, then for the U. S. Senate. In 1941 he was elected to Congress, where he served 8 years, the last 2 as a member of the Committee on Rules.

In March 1953 Rizley resigned from his law firm to become solicitor in the Post Office Department.

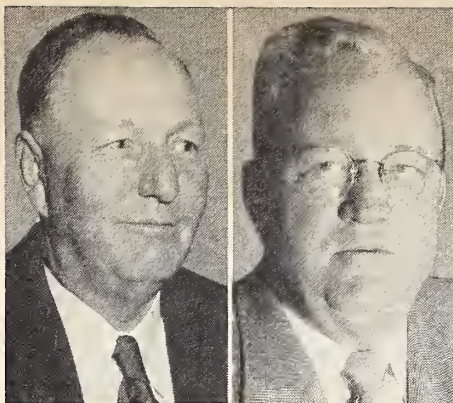
Figy Assistant to Secretary

SECRETARY BENSON on December 17 named Charles Figy, Morenci, Mich., as Assistant to the Secretary, in charge of relations with State commissioners, secretaries and directors of agriculture. Mr. Figy replaces Whitney Gilliland, recently appointed Chairman of the War Claims Commission by President Eisenhower.

Mr. Figy served 11 years as State Director of Agriculture for Michigan and 5 years on the Department's advisory committee on cooperative work with State departments of agriculture. He is a key figure in various farm organizations and business enterprises in Michigan. Born in Ohio, he early became interested in dairying, and today owns his farm there, with a herd of 75 purebred Holstein dairy cattle.

Useful in foreign trade

A fourth report of a series on the prospects of developing trade between consumer and agricultural production cooperatives in the United States and Europe has been distributed by Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA. This report called "Opportunities for Trade with the Cooperatives in Ten Western European Countries" is listed as FAP-1-53, prepared by John H. Heckman, marketing specialist. The organization of the major European cooperatives, their current and preferred methods of trading and the chief U. S. products in which they are interested are given.



Introducing—Ross Rizley (left), Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; and Charles Figy (right), Assistant to the Secretary, whose appointments were recently announced by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson.

Castor beans price 6 cents

Castor beans produced in 6 States in the Southwest will be covered by a purchase program for the 1954 crop. The announced price will be 6 cents a pound, hulled, and delivered to CCC approved warehouses. Office of Defense Mobilization approved the Departments' program. Castor oil is needed for defense purposes. The 1954 price was reduced on account of lower market values.

Legal aid for employees

The Solicitor of the Department provides the services of field attorneys of his office to advise and assist employees of the Department who become involved in civil or criminal actions as a result of accidents occurring or activities undertaken within the scope of their employment. The field attorneys will also counsel employees who need protection from physical violence while performing their official duties. The appropriate office or branch of the Solicitor's Office must be notified immediately whenever an employee, in performing official duties, is involved in any accident causing substantial property damage or serious injury to persons. P-564, Revision 5, lists the field offices and attorneys. You may obtain it from your personnel office.

Acclaim for Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee and Editor Alfred Stefferud have received many letters from scientists, teachers, and students, praising *Plant Diseases*, the 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture. Reviews have appeared in California Citrograph, U. S. News and World Report, Washington Sunday Star, New York Times, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Science, Seedsmen's Digest, and Science News Letter. An amateur botanist wrote: "I want to thank you and all those who made the Yearbook a book for us—the public. . . . It certainly reflects the great and ever-providing Department of Agriculture, we have in our country." From the Dallas News: "The Yearbook of Agriculture, is one of the finest things about Federal Government. [It points up] what the fine, conscientious, career people do." The Harvard Crimson said: "*Plant Diseases* is a volume of immense scope containing information of value to both laymen and scientists. . . . clearing up much of the muddle-headed thinking on plant infection problems."

George C. Pace Dies

George C. Pace, visual specialist on Extension's staff since 1944, nationally known for his skill and artistry in photography, died December 22. He was born at Zanesville, Ohio, and was buried in Roseville December 26.

Peterson heads safety

EUGENE J. PETERSON, SCS, was elected chairman of the USDA Safety Council, to succeed Paul F. Loehler, P&O, December 17. Other officers are A. M. Sowder, FS, first vice president, Harry L. Garver, ARS, second vice president, and Claude Prichard, FHA, secretary. Earl Wheeler, safety engineer of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, addressed the meeting, speaking of the function of collateral-duty safety officers. He urged that all large units have either full-time safety engineers or other personnel assigned to promote safety of employees. Pictures of unsafe appliances and a short movie of Smokey the Bear were shown.

The council, in cooperation with the Office of Personnel, will sponsor a 30-hour winter course in safety measures and programs. The course is given through the courtesy of the Bureau of Labor Standards, Department of Labor, and is planned for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Similar schools are being held in other administrative centers.

The new Employee Safety Committee, M. E. Yount, ARS, chairman, has outlined the following needs for attention in coming months:

1. Need for improving safety attitude—

- a. On the part of agency and bureau administrators.

- b. On the part of employees.

- c. To assure adequate staff for employee safety program.

2. Need for administrative acceptance of responsibilities as outlined in chapter 50 of Title 8—

- a. Offer safety training to Bureau personnel charged with safety training.

- b. Encourage adequate inspection service and adequate safeguards for employee protection.

- c. Adequate investigation of accidents.

Skim milk preservation

Dairy specialists of Agricultural Research Service have found that condensed skim milk can be kept frozen for periods of at least a year without materially impairing its baking quality. It is important to know that an acceptable loaf can be made from dough that contains 6 percent of nonfat solids derived from thawed and reconstituted skim milk, even though the body of the milk and the flavor have somewhat deteriorated. It means that a company with concentrating equipment, but no dryer, could preserve surplus skim milk during the flush season for use by the baking industry in periods of scarcity.

"Missing Link"

"Certified seed is the missing link that increases the crop yields and profits on many farms" says John T. Stovall of the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association.

Dr. Cardon new head of FAO

DR. PHILIP V. CARDON, former chief of Agricultural Research Administration, and Director of the Graduate School, was elected Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, at Rome, Italy, December 9. He succeeds N. E. Dodd, formerly Under Secretary of Agriculture, who retired after 5 years as director. Mr. Dodd's services were highly appreciated, and his leadership was praised by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John H. Davis, who was one of several Department officials at the FAO sessions.

In closing the session, the FAO conference adopted policies for increasing production of food where it is needed and for enabling more of the world's people to buy the foods that exist in plenty. A group of the FAO committee on commodity problems will meet in Washington early in 1954 to take up "the best means of disposal of agricultural commodity surpluses and the necessary safeguards."

OPEDA in 25th year

THE ANNIVERSARY Committee of OPEDA met at luncheon, January 7, to plan a fitting program for the coming spring. The year 1954 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of Professional Employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The organization began in meetings called by the late Dr. A. F. Woods, Director of Scientific Work, Dr. K. F. Kellerman, Bureau of Plant Industry, and associates and representatives of the bureaus and offices of the Department early in 1929. Members of the permanent committee were C. C. Clark (chairman), W. W. Skinner, Frank Ashbrook (secretary), M. S. Eisenhower, John W. Roberts, Roy Headley, Benjamin Schwartz, and Joseph A. Becker. A constitution was adopted, and membership grew to 2,991 that spring. Information concerning the viewpoint of the professional group was supplied to congressional committees, and to colleges supplying professional and scientific workers. Representatives of the present widespread membership will be named to complete anniversary arrangements.

Better be safe

In announcing a safety training course, Carl Herrick, Personnel, reports for the first three quarters of 1953: 29 deaths, 802 lost-time injuries to Department workers. Of the 29 deaths, 15 resulted from one disastrous fire. For same 9-month period last year the losses were 17 deaths and 832 lost-time accidents.

USDA family Christmas

CHRISTMAS IN the Patio this year was a USDA family celebration—Secretary Benson and family, the Secretary's staff, and a general gathering of the USDA family united in joyous observance of the holiday. Our special thanks go to Mrs. Benson and the Benson daughters for their literary and musical numbers.

Want to study Slavic?

Scholarships and fellowships in Soviet and East European studies are announced by the Ford Foundation Board on Overseas Training and Research, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. They are open to graduates who have studied social sciences and languages and are otherwise qualified, and who wish to begin or continue studies about the east European area. It's a safe bet there will be no snap courses.

Cotton goods fellowship

An industry fellowship for research on cotton textiles has been established by the National Canvas Goods Manufacturers Association at USDA's Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans. The purpose of the investigations will be to improve the performance of canvas goods and sewing thread in awnings, tents, and tarpaulins—important outdoor outlets for cotton. The Fellowship and Research Committee of the Association will suggest emphasis on specific problems of the industry. The Laboratory will provide facilities and technical supervision of the research. The Association has appointed John V. Bailey to conduct the work of the fellowship. He comes to the Southern Laboratory from the University of Wichita, where he recently received an M. S. degree in chemistry. He will work with W. Norbert Berard, chemical technologist, Cotton Chemical Processing Division, of the Southern Laboratory.

Bell on grain assignment

The program for expanding wheat, rice, and feed grain markets in other countries has been placed by FAS in the hands of Edward J. Bell. Mr. Bell has been administrator of the Oregon Wheat Commission, and has had many years experience in the marketing agencies of the Government.

Agronomy-soils meet

The 1953 meetings of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America held recently at Dallas, Tex., were the largest ever, with 1,202 in attendance. Dr. C. J. Willard, professor of agronomy, Ohio State University, became president of the Agronomy Society and Prof. Emil Truog, chairman of the Department of Soils, University of Wisconsin, became president of the Soil Science Society. Dr. G. G. Pohlman, head of the Department of Agronomy and Genetics, West Virginia Experiment Station, was elected vice president of the Agronomy Society; Dr. M. B. Russell, head of the Department of Agronomy, Illinois Experiment Station, vice president of the Soil Science Society. Dr. G. H. Stringfield of Ohio State University is the new vice president of the six crop-science divisions of the society.

Time for School

SPRING CLASSES in the Graduate School of USDA will begin early in February. More than 190 courses are offered in Washington. The school also conducts 11 correspondence courses. If you wish a list of these courses or to register, please address Registrar, U. S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, Washington 25, D. C.

Thoughts in season

EVER TRY sharing your breakfast, the crumbs at least, with the winter birds? Throw a few seeds or crusts on the driveway, and you will be surprised how quickly the birds will accept the invitation. Sunflower seeds will bring the cardinals to your steps. A few dried currants and seeds on the windowsill will attract mockingbirds and chickadees, and occasionally a titmouse or a nuthatch. A little suet nailed to the birdhouse post is a sure shot to tempt the downy woodpecker. Scraps of bread summon bluejays and assorted sparrows in pairs and flocks. A pinch of birdseed on the feeding ledge of the birdhouse draws the wrens.

To feed these visitors costs next to nothing, but you are repaid 10 times over in saving and enjoyment of birdlife. If a storm is brewing, the trees and shrubs about a small feeding station come to life with scores of birds, all pouncing upon the feed or each other. In the District of Columbia we have as many as 20 species a day. If it snows, the juncos (snowbirds) come right to the window. The nuthatch hides large seeds in crevices in the bark of old trees and other birds may follow him up the trunks and branches and loot his treasure. Starlings, jays, and sparrows may get a little more than their share of your offerings, but they too are valuable in fields and gardens.

Each winter day the mocker "chirks" at the crack of dawn. And if you have forgotten the alarm clock, the redbird will call from a hanging branch, where he and his mate patiently await your arrival at the window. For the joy of it, and for benefits receivable, we keep alive the native and migrant birds.

Turkey trains secretaries

Miss Bedia Cobanoglu, of Turkey, visited Personnel of USDA December 9 to discuss secretarial-training plans for workers in her Government.

Just horse sense

A cow is a very good animal in the field; but we turn her out of the garden.

—DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

JANUARY 13, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 1

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 27, 1954

The new farm program

THE NEW farm program, presented to the Congress by President Eisenhower, and discussed in detail by Secretary of Agriculture Benson, January 11, came at the culmination of a year's thorough study by leaders in agriculture from all over the Nation. The program is designed to achieve the stability and growth of farm income through realistic measures that will give the farmers freedom to increase efficiency and enable them to adjust production to changing consumer demand.

More than 60 different survey groups, over 500 of the best known agricultural men of the country, the agricultural colleges, processor and trade groups, national farm organizations, and countless individual farmers and other interested citizens took part in the planning. Members of Congress, the bipartisan National Agricultural Advisory Commission, and Department agencies also participated in the study and consultations.

It was pointed out that under the existing program, surpluses get larger and that the farmers' purchasing power gets lower despite the aggressive application of price support laws now on the books. The need for a new farm program is acute. Successful features of the old program would be retained and the least successful replaced.

Important measures of the new program include flexible, not rigid, price supports and a modernized parity formula permitting the price support program to reflect the ever-changing pattern of farm costs as farming methods are improved. "Freezing" of excess commodity reserves is planned to prevent excess accumulated stocks from depressing the market or handicapping the new program. High-level missions would confer on international trade. Commodity Credit Corporation's borrowing

capacity would be increased to cover price support commitments for 1954 and later crops.

The new program is designed to strengthen the farm economy, at the same time enabling consumers to buy farm products at fair prices. Allowing American agriculture to operate on a flexible basis would minimize the problems of diverting acreage as well as promoting conservation, good farm management, and long-range planning for efficient production and marketing. Opening new markets at home and abroad would reduce the need for imposing acreage curbs.

The flexible price supports are expected to promote gradual shifts in production and supply, leading to more balanced production. These supports would operate as outlined under the 1948 and 1949 Agricultural Acts.

The old parity formula was based on conditions in the 1909-14 period; the modernized parity formula brings these relationships up to date on a progressive 10-year basis. The changeover to modernized parity would be gradual, by dropping parity not more than 5 percent per year. This changeover, already accomplished for all commodities except wheat, corn, cotton, and peanuts, would begin in 1956.

Present program features would be maintained for meat animals, dairy products, and poultry and eggs. Fruits and sugar programs would continue under Section 32, practically unchanged, and potatoes would be added to this group.

Better brussels sprouts

New U. S. standards for brussels sprouts became effective January 18. They were developed at the request of the industry. Production is largely centered in the Salinas section of California, and on Long Island, N. Y., and amounts to about \$3,500,000 annually. A maximum length of 2 3/4 inches, with 10-percent tolerance, is specified for each grade.

Producing more vitamin B₂

VITAMIN B₂, or riboflavin, widely used in fortifying food, and poultry and small-animal feeds, and in the preparation of pharmaceuticals, is now being produced commercially by a new fermentation process developed by the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, ARS.

The new method uses a yeast-like organism—*Ashbya gossypii*—to synthesize the vitamin. In nature the organism is found mainly on cotton plants, where it produces a negligible amount of vitamin B₂ but also causes much damage to the cotton bolls. However, Laboratory scientists found that in an artificial medium the organism produces vitamin B₂ in significant amount. They also succeeded in increasing the yield many fold.

Studies on both small- and large-scale fermentations showed that by this method vitamin B₂ can be produced commercially from inexpensive raw materials.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as follows:

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY: Kathryn N. Prater, secretary, Washington, D. C.

COMMODITY STABILIZATION SERVICE: Walter A. Davis, fats and oils marketing specialist, Brownwood, Texas; William H. Elliott, Agricultural Economist (marketing research), Washington, D. C.; Robert H. Nelson, program specialist (castor beans), College Station, Texas.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE: Martin M. Gordon, soil conservation aid, Oakland, Maryland; Robert A. Reed, soil conservationist, Belmont, New York.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER: John A. Weems, laborer, Beltsville, Maryland.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION: Mary G. Wagner, clerk-typist, Mercer, Pennsylvania.

New England soils improve

New England soils are more fertile than they were 200 years ago despite the fact that they have been cultivated longer than any other soils in the United States. Dr. C. L. W. Swanson, head of the Soils Department at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, made this statement in a recent report before the section on agriculture of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Although naturally infertile, most soils in the six New England States are highly responsive to fertilization. Moreover, the region's agriculture is intensive, and large quantities of fertilizer are applied to the land each year.

Marketing winter pears

To encourage orderly marketing of the winter pear crop, producers have scheduled an intensive merchandising campaign for January 26-February 6.

Farm planning for 1954

SHARPENING PLOWS will be only one of farmers' activities this winter, to judge from the report of the Annual Outlook Conference. Farmers now face making some adjustments in their production and overall farm management plans to get on a more normal peacetime basis. Feed grain and meat producers could produce more than the markets will take at worthwhile prices. Beef production in 1953 exceeded that for 1952 and the carryover of corn is near a record level, yet 1954 production, at present indications, is sure to be high. Acreage reduction for cotton and wheat might result in heavier planting of some of the feed grains, with a near record supply.

C. W. Crickman, USDA economist, indicates that farmers will be making changes in their farming plans to adjust production more in line with current needs. The domestic demand for farm products remains good. He attributes price declines to upward fluctuations in volume of marketing and to decline of exports. He says: "Consumer purchasing power and buying do not show widespread signs of faltering. Even though the economy should drop somewhat below top levels part of the time, a period of expanding business and relatively stable prices is likely to follow in which production would move upward with the increase in population and employable workers."

The job of the grain and livestock farmer is to start constructive changes now that will make for better balanced farming and higher yields at lower costs in the years a little farther ahead. There are important conservation and farm management practices that will increase efficiency and cut costs. But there would be no increased production for the next year or two; the increases would come later when there are more mouths to fill.

Mr. Crickman advises farmers to seed more acres of grass and legumes this spring, improve crop rotations to prevent erosion, increase carrying capacity of pastures by use of fertilizers, rehabilitate rundown and neglected lands through a program of erosion control, fertilization, and livestock farming. Since it takes 2 or 3 years to establish a good pasture, this program would not expand cattle marketing for several years, when population growth is expected to increase the demand for meat. He thinks it unlikely that farmers and ranchers will be faced with chronic excess production.

A copy of the 21-page Outlook Conference report can be obtained from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; or see the review "Looking Ahead With Feed Grain and Livestock Farming" in the January *Agricultural Situation*.

Club "man of the year"

USDA CLUB NEWS of Dallas, Texas, features Russell A. Vernon of the Commodity Stabilization Service as the USDA Club man of the year 1953. The Certificate of Merit Committee commended his club activities. Vernon is Assistant Chief of Field Operations, CSS. He has served the Department for 17 years. Howard Martin, outgoing president, writes that the Club's activities have been of great benefit to the members in 1953. Officers elected for 1954 are:

President, Richard N. Richardson, Commodity Stabilization Service, Commodity Office; first vice President, William G. Elliott, Commodity Stabilization Service, Compliance and Investigation Division; second vice President, Lawrence D. Smith, Farmers Home Administration, State Office; Treasurer, Evelyn Weedin, Agricultural Marketing Service, Food Distribution Division; and Mary Nell Barnes, Commodity Stabilization Service, Commodity Office, Secretary.

Irrigation enterprise guide

The type of organization is closely related to the degree of success or failure of an irrigation enterprise. There are three main types: District, mutual company, and commercial company, with many variations in their setups, including Federal and State participation. As a service to irrigators, Soil Conservation Service and Bureau of Agricultural Economics began a study in 1946 and the Department recently issued Circular 934, *Irrigation-Enterprise Organizations*. About 124,000 irrigation enterprises are listed by the 1950 Census of Irrigation, and many more are likely to be developed. The circular covers types of enterprise, the legal requirements, management-consumer relations, taxation, overhead, service charges, and financing. Circular 934 is available from Office of Information, USDA.

Conservation society elects

New officers of the Washington chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America are the following: W. J. Endersbee, of the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, chairman; T. L. Ayers, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, USDA, vice chairman; and Alfred M. Hedge, Soil Conservation Service, USDA, secretary-treasurer. At the December meeting, Kent Leavitt, director of the Dutchess County, N. Y., Soil Conservation District, former president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, emphasized the need for cooperation between soil conservation districts and governmental and local agencies. In dealing with the growing problems of providing water supplies for cities, farms, and gardens in the Eastern States, he urged close cooperation between the conservation districts and water-users' associations.

Farmer good customer, too

W. T. McAllister, agricultural economist at the University of Delaware, points out a few industrial items purchased for farm use throughout the Nation each year—7 million tons of finished steel for fences, machinery, roofs and equipment; 59 million tons of chemicals, 5 times the amount used in 1935; 12½ billion gallons of crude petroleum, more than that used by any other industry; 320 million pounds of crude rubber, enough for tires for 6 million cars; 15 billion kilowatts of electric power—enough to supply Chicago, Detroit, and Houston for a year. This list could include lumber, coal, electrical appliances, automobiles, clothing and household furnishings, continues McAllister, but it does emphasize the interdependence of producer and consumer.

Entomologists elect

Dr. E. R. McGovran of the technical staff, ARS-OES, reports that about 800 attended the First Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America which met at Los Angeles. E. S. A. is a consolidated scientific society which, prior to 1953, consisted of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America. The program included 176 papers, invitational and reports on research. H. H. Ross of the Illinois History Survey is president for 1954. Dr. Ashley B. Gurney of the Entomology Research Branch, ARS, was chosen executive secretary.

Farm-trained banker

Reasons for banks to establish farm departments are set forth in a recent bulletin of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Development of a farm department is dominated by local considerations and immediate and long-run objectives in the achievement of a sounder farm credit program. A recent survey by the bank found immediate objectives were: Expanding the volume of good farm loans, improving the quality of loans, improving public relations, and assisting in promoting desirable changes in local agriculture. A prime necessity was held to be the employment of a farm representative who would work with the farmers in developing a sounder agriculture for the community. A foremost consideration would be to obtain a man trained in agriculture.

The film workshop

MOTION Picture Service arranged a film workshop for January 25-29 in Washington. The principal theme was "Films for Television." On the program were scheduled addresses by Under Secretary True D. Morse; C. M. Ferguson, Administrator of Federal Extension Service; R. L. Webster, Director of Information; Kenneth Gapen, Chief of Radio and Television Service; Walter K. Scott, Chief of Motion Picture Service; information officers of other Department services; members of State extension services; and representatives of commercial motion picture and television stations. The National Project of Agricultural Communications is also participating and is sending speakers from East Lansing, Michigan.

Major Guthrie on forest lore

John D. Guthrie's new book "Fables for Foresters" is out this month. A forester's saving grace of humor is brought to bear on building up perhaps an American forestry folklore. Major Guthrie retired from the Forest Service several years ago, but not from writing about forestry.

Portland USDA's hear Watts

The Portland USDA Club meeting in December was addressed by Lyle Watts, former Chief of the Forest Service. Mr. Watts is now connected with the Oregon Water Resources Committee.

Fertilizer supply growing

The supply of fertilizers available for 1953-54 is expected to exceed that for last year by about 11 percent. The Fertilizer Situation reports that the 1953 prices averaged about 2 percent higher than for the preceding year and expects little change in levels in the coming year.

Philosophy to the rescue

We must give people Truth, which is something more than an assemblage of facts. We must develop in them a philosophy, if conservation is to be a true mass movement.—Dan Saultz, Missouri Conservation Commission.

Your graduate school

THE USDA Graduate School has organized a spring program of more than 190 courses including: Biological and physical sciences; foreign languages; English composition, speech; mathematics and statistics, Federal Government procedures, Government procedures, Government letter and procedure writing; shorthand, review, beginning, and reporting; public Administration; accounting; economics; sociology—psychology; transportation; surveying and mapping—meteorology; art—photography—lithography; and interior decoration.

Registration will be held in the Patio, Administration Building, from January 30 through February 6. You can get a copy of the spring schedule of classes by calling your personnel office or the Graduate School.

The Graduate School also conducts 11 correspondence courses, open to qualified field employees of the Federal Government. The courses include report writing, lettering, soils, farm forestry, personnel procedures, statistical methods, sampling and experimental design, hydrology, social and economic history of agriculture, meat inspection and quarantine laws, and legal aspects of investigations. If you wish to write or register by mail, address the Registrar, U. S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, Washington 25, D. C.

USDA: January 27, 1954

Brief and choice

This rummaging paid off

George Ade drew a moral "Never rummage." But recent rummaging in the Kentucky State Capitol paid off. In cleaning out the basement, searchers found ancient dictating machines, envelope sealers, and plush old furniture to be reconditioned. They also recovered a governor's speech on "old Ring"—pleading for less stringent dog laws—a Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture report for 1891, and U. S. Department of Agriculture reports dated 1887. There is a law against throwing away anything of value to the State. Many of the old books were sent on to the University of Kentucky Library, on loan.

Statistician retires

Miss Lucile Gumaer, statistician of the Forest Service Division of Forest Economics, retired at the end of 1953. Coming from Pennsylvania she joined the Forest Service as junior clerk. She became statistical analyst of research manuscripts and reports to Congress. She has been a member of the National Federation of Federal Employees since 1926. She will live in Washington, D. C.

Puyallup, new raspberry

Puyallup is the fifth new raspberry variety introduced as a result of berry breeding work started at the Western Washington Experiment Station in 1928. In 1938, the Washington and Tahoma red raspberries were introduced. Buchanan estimates that these two have added something like \$15,000,000 to Washington's income. The Northwest strawberry, released in 1949, now accounts for 25 percent of all strawberries processed in the Pacific Northwest. In 1952, a yellow raspberry—Goldenwest—was released as a garden novelty.

Hope in the forest

Carson National Forest, N. Mex., has closed its most successful deer season in years. The correspondent writes that everyone but the supervisor got his deer, and that he was hopeful all the time. The elk hunt bagged 23 elk for 40 permits.

Philip G. Rohan dies

Philip G. Rohan, attorney on the staff of the Solicitor, died Dec. 31. He was born in Missouri, practiced law, entered the Government under the Resettlement Administration in 1934, served in World War II, rejoined the Department in 1946 and was assigned by the Solicitor to legal work for Farmers Home Administration.

Kenaf fiber on view

Samples of kenaf fiber have been made available for inspection in the Cotton Division, CSS. The CCC on January 12 offered 2,713 bales of kenaf fiber at West Palm Beach and Philadelphia warehouses. The fiber was produced in Florida and in Latin American countries. It has been used to a limited extent as a substitute for jute.

Kentucky timber

Forest Resource Report No. 7 has been published by USDA and was written in cooperation with several public agencies of Kentucky. It's Kentucky Forest Resources and Industries, 56 pages printed and well illustrated. The bulletin was done at the Central States Forest Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, for 35 cents per copy.

Marketing potatoes

MARKED CHANGES in potato marketing, toward efficiency, have come about in the last few years. Some of these changes are described in the new AIB-114, Highlights of Potato Marketing, by A. Clinton Cook, marketing specialist, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service. Once there was much shrinkage and waste in farm and consumer storage. Elimination of such losses has exaggerated the apparent decline in potato consumption.

Farmers can operate to produce more U. S. No. 1 potatoes; consumers remember that poor-quality potatoes cost almost as much as good ones, because marketing costs are about equal. Appearance and cleanliness rank high with the consumer, therefore it does not pay to ship poor potatoes from the farm. Better packaging costs a little more, but improved handling machinery may offset this. Transportation costs are generally higher. Growers will do well to plant an acreage that under average marketing conditions will produce a crop to satisfy the consumer demand for potatoes. Copies available at Office of Information, USDA.

How do you change a penny?

A gradual transition from state trading to free markets in the handling of British imports is expected to follow the recent reopening of the Liverpool futures market, CEA reports. This market, long influential in world trade in wheat, was closed after the outbreak of World War II. On the day of reopening the market the girls in the Washington ticker room receiving quotations in shillings and pence—complicated by fluctuating values in the sterling-dollar exchange rate—had to work out their own conversion tables overnight in order to change shillings and pence per cental into dollars and cents per bushel. They did a good job, so that they were able to get the right answers quickly all in a single operation of the calculating machine.

Fred Ferguson, editor, dies

Fred E. Ferguson, professor and publications editor at Iowa State College, died December 27. He had been a member of the faculty for nearly 30 years. Ferguson was born on a farm near Laurens, Iowa. He was graduated from Iowa State College with a B. S. degree in animal husbandry in 1922. He was named publications editor in 1944. Ferguson earned a national reputation as a leading exponent of simplified reporting of scientific information, particularly in the field of agricultural research. Iowa State College publications won many national awards under his editorship. He was also editor of "Iowa Farm Science" a monthly magazine of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service.

Native foods—good fare

CORN AND chile foods, enjoyed by so many of us, are especially rich in nutritive values, according to Bulletin No. 379, issued by the A & M experiment station, State College, New Mexico. Corn and corn products, chile, pinto beans, and other foods were analyzed in a recent study. "Blue" or "native" corn was found much higher in niacin and slightly higher in thiamine than white corn.

Lime treatment of corn for tortillas and other foods resulted in an enormous increase in calcium. There was little loss of nutrients in the processing of corn in making tortillas. Corn tortillas were richer in calcium, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin than flour tortillas.

Dried beans, often called the "poor man's meat," were found to be especially rich in the B vitamins, iron, and a good source of protein. However, the analysis indicated that bean protein is "incomplete" and must be supplemented with smaller amounts of "complete" protein. Some of the wild greens equal cultivated greens in food value, and their use is encouraged where home gardens are scarce. They have long been valued as "spring tonic."

Green chile is a good source of carotene and compares favorably with other green vegetables as a source of vitamin A. The carotene content of the chile increases as the peppers ripen, and fully ripe peppers are very rich in this substance.

Fresh chile, whether green or red, is a very rich source of ascorbic acid. As in other plant foods the amount of ascorbic acid is influenced by growing conditions, particularly sunshine.

Facts on price programs

Price programs of the USDA, AIB No. 13, has been brought up to date by Harry W. Henderson, Commodity Stabilization Service. Program changes are frequent, requiring revisions. The author covers price-support, International Wheat Agreement, section 32, national school lunch, marketing agreement and order, and sugar programs—partly by the question-and-answer method, partly by sections on individual programs and the crops covered. For the first time a set of commodity tables has been added to make the report fuller and more usable.

New in lettuce

California lettuce growers are shifting rapidly to the Great Lakes variety, according to a joint study by J. E. Walch of the University of California and Thomas W. Whitaker, USDA. The variety was developed by USDA and released to seed growers in 1942. It required about 7 years to meet the expanding demand for seed. Vacuum Cooling, a patented process, expedited shipment and made it possible to use paper containers instead of wooden crates. California produced 62 percent of the Nation's lettuce crop last year.

Readers' reminders

Passing the potatoes

Crossing in the Christmas mail, it is said, were two sacks of potatoes, one a present from the Governor of Maine to the Governor of Idaho, the other from the Governor of Idaho to the Governor of Maine. We wonder what governor said to governor. Maybe it was—"It's a long road between us, but we agree on eating more spuds."

Combating apple rot

Blue mold fungus, bane of fruit storehouse and market, gets a going-over in new Circular No. 935, Relation of Bruising and Other Factors to Blue Mold Decay of Delicious Apples. Research shows that rapid cooling and subsequent storage temperatures of 31° to 32° F. during a 1-month period after bruising and inoculation greatly retarded decay of Pacific Northwest apples. Circular available from Office of Information, USDA.

Catalog up-to-date

Nothing beats keeping up with the times. Bureau of Animal Industry having over the years issued index-catalogs A to Z, Animal Disease Research Division, ARS, starts the new year doing it over again by issuing Supplement A to B. Obtainable from Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

Phosphate and western crops

Phosphate fertilizer investigations in 15 Western States conducted by USDA, in cooperation with State experiment stations and commercial companies, are reported in a new publication, USDA Circular 927. Use increased from 37,000 to 150,000 tons between 1939 and 1949. Field crop response depends on kind of crop and kind of soil. Residual carryover of phosphate fertilizers by western soils is high. Phosphates frequently increase the phosphorus content of crops. But the variations are such that it is not safe to generalize. This study contains much valuable data. Available from Office of Information, USDA.

Keeping tile drains clear

Another of those half-picture Leaflets just out is called Keep Your Tile Drains Working. Even the drains 20 to 30 years old can be mapped and repaired. The newer tile systems are well mapped and engineered for a minimum of trouble. It is of course necessary to watch intakes, outlets, and such trouble spots as root entrances and dens of small animals. Leaflet 347 stresses ways of keeping the system in working order and protecting the land. Copies available, Office of Information, USDA.

Farm forestry flash

"Farm Forestry Extension, What It Is and How It Works" is the title of new Agricultural Information Bulletin 107. The story is told by W. K. Williams, veteran extension forester, and is notably well illustrated. Office of Information, USDA.

Retires to ride hobby

Ralph Erskine, writer and editor for the Bureau of Animal Industry for 24 years, retired at the end of 1953. Friends gave him a retirement party, January 5, at which Dr. B. T. Sims, Chief of the Animal Disease Research Branch, and other colleagues traced Ralph's progress from the ranch in Washington, to chief editorship in the bureau. Ralph will live in California and practice handicrafts that won praise in the USDA Hobby Show.

Thoughts in season

DEAD OF winter is like the dead of night—everybody knows what you mean, but nobody seems able to tell you just when it is. Yet why anyone should call either of these interesting periods "dead" is a mystery. Midwinter actually is a time when much of nature about us is sleeping. A few of the animals are in hibernation, and the plant world has really gone to bed. Botanists call it the period of winter rest. Most trees should have dried out sufficiently to prevent freezing damage to their cells and stems. The sap is inactive, and most buds are in the dormant stage. Seeds are stuffed with almost insoluble foods and tucked into their practically waterproof and air-proof coats. It is this ability to halt most physiological activity which insures that the species will be carried safely through to a new spring and a new generation. We can store a large portion of our grain for food and seeding, thanks to this wise provision of nature.

Can it be that people tend to go dormant in winter? It is hard to get an answer out of the scientists on this seeming odd question. Armies for ages have gone into winter quarters, and it is related that certain extremely remote tribesmen go in for long sleeps in winter. You can't blame them—nobody loves an alarm clock on a bad wintry day! Your business or your conscience may make you rouse up and go out to do a good day's work. There are a few things we can do about plants in their winter rest; many things we can do for ourselves, if no more than plan for spring activity. We might perhaps be lucky and go fishing after the corn is laid by in summer, but we'd better take no chances on going dormant in winter.

Work in the picture

Teamwork is a two-picture word. One is a picture of a team. The other is a picture of work. — From *The Link*, Federal Land Bank of New Orleans.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 10, 1954

"Snow Men" in training

FIELD MEN from cooperating Government and private agencies in 10 Western States had a special training work-out January 18-22 in the latest snow-water measuring techniques and mountain travel and safety measures.

Mountain-wise men recruited by the Soil Conservation Service each year for the rugged job of measuring the water content of the winter snow crop for the guidance of irrigation, power, and other water users figured they had much to learn. The snow survey training school held at McCall, Idaho, in the Payette National Forest, covered everything from administration and organization of snow surveys to how to avoid avalanches, with most of the time spent out in the snow.

Cooperating were the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, U. S. Weather Bureau, Corps of Army Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, private power companies, State agencies, and others. The Military Air Transport Command gave instruction on rescue of victims of accidents.

Soil Conservation Service snow survey leaders said nearly 900 surveyors took this year's measurements on permanently marked courses high in the mountains. The surveys are made near the first of each winter month, at locations in major storm paths, until the mountain snow pack has reached its maximum, usually in April. The snow surveyors, working in pairs for increased safety, travel to the isolated snow courses on skis or snowshoes, by special motor vehicles designed to operate on snow, and sometimes by helicopter.

They take cores of snow—at the same points year after year—with hollow metal tubes and weigh the snow cores on special scales which show the inches of water in given depths of snow. The accumulated snow-water information for each State or basin then is passed on to

the water users jointly by the Soil Conservation Service and the Weather Bureau. A final spring forecast of prospective summer streamflow and reservoir storage is issued on the basis of all available snow-survey, Weather Bureau, Geological Survey streamflow, and other data.

Will study African oils

V. H. Hougen of Foreign Agricultural Service will make a study of exportable production of vegetable oils in Africa, which competes with United States in world markets and supplies vegetable oils and oilseeds, such as palm oil, palm kernels, and peanuts, to this country. This study is part of a program to promote markets for U. S. farm products and to advise our producers in gearing their production to world demands.

Big year for co-ops

Farm co-ops in the United States gained 4 percent in membership last year. They bought supplies and services, and they sold products for a gross of \$12 billion. Minnesota ranked first in number of associations, followed by Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota, and Texas. Illinois had most members, California most business.

Bob McMillen joins staff

ROBERT D. McMILLEN, Washington editor of the Farm Journal, has been appointed Assistant to Secretary Benson on special assignments. He has had broad experience in agricultural information and journalism and has been on editorial duties since 1939 except for 5 years in military service mostly in the African theater. He held the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. Much of his youth was spent in Midwest agricultural areas. He later took degrees at Columbia University.

Mr. McMillen succeeds Harold O. Belknap, who served as consultant while on leave from Braun and Company of San Francisco. Known for his understanding and activity in the agricultural field, "Bob" McMillen took over his new duties January 15, and landed busy.

TV packages popular

INTEREST IN televised farm programs is reflected in requests from over the country for more material. USDA began a weekly television package program on July 1. Now more than 80 farm television directors or extension television specialists are getting these packets of prepared materials and scripts. Stations now using this service reach 16,500,000 television sets with a potential viewing audience of more than 60 million persons, according to R. L. Webster, Director of Information.

Radio and Television Service finds the USDA agencies very helpful in assembling material for the broadcasts. Jules Renaud and Alice Skelsey edit the scripts and arrange the schedules and deliveries. Since January 1, television viewers have through the package service seen and heard: Secretary Benson on what is ahead for the farmers in 1954; script with pictures and local recommendations on ways that surplus acres, removed from wheat and cotton production, can be efficiently used; script with silent footage showing the differences between meat-type and fat hogs, with suggestions on how to raise meat-type hogs; also other programs dealing with pasture fertilizers, fighting vesicular exanthema, and combating wind erosion.

Programs with titles and mailing dates for the rest of this month and March follow:

FEBRUARY	
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD	
February 12.	How Much Is Your Farm Worth? Factors considered by Farm Land Bank appraisers when setting farmland values.
February 19.	Proper Care of Electric Motors.
February 26.	Tree Planting.
March 5.	Foreign Trade. Showing present status of world trade and world markets for American farm products.
March 12.	Improved Dairy Cattle Housing. A new system of "loose" housing for efficient milking and management of dairy herds.
March 19.	Greater Egg Profits. Seven ways for increasing profits from farm flocks.
March 26.	Outlook. Reporting on farmers' intentions to plant for 1954.

The fuzz on the cottonseed

Linters, the short fuzz on the cottonseed, bulk up to more than 1½ million bales a year, valued at about \$50 million. Results of Cotton Division, AMS, research on the production and marketing of linters were printed lately in Marketing Research Report 56, Cotton Linters, Production, Marketing and Market Outlets. Office of Information, USDA, has copies.

Man can best the insects

SURROUNDED BY a world of insects, somewhat as they are surrounded by the air, people have listened earnestly to biologists who have declared that "This is the age of insects." They have profited, too, by taking heed and devising controls. Dr. Paul W. Oman, new head of the Section of Insect Detection and Identification, Agricultural Research Administration, takes a realistic view of the struggle, based on research, quarantine, and control experience of the entomologists.

"Insects will not prevail against man" he says "because we are pitting the brain power of man against the unthinking reproductive power and adaptability of insects. Some insects also develop resistance to our insecticides, but human intelligence will develop new insecticides. And we are learning more about setting insects to kill other insects." Dr. Oman modestly says that other scientists in the Department are better equipped than he to describe these measures. Eternal vigilance is the price people have to pay, but by detection and identification and by striking quickly, they can put down any insect outbreak. The Section last year identified more than 360,000 specimens, sent in from every State in the Union and from countries around the world.

Dr. Oman spent several years in the Army, largely doing medical research, seeking the insect carriers of disease in Japan and Korea, finding many so-far unsolved problems. He doubts whether those countries have more insects or insect-carried diseases than other countries, and is confident that research, controls, and quarantines will prevent any heavy insect invasions from that quarter of the world.

A graduate of George Washington University, and long experienced in entomology work for the Government, Dr. Oman handles insects with mild precautions (except well-armed fellows such as wasps and yellowjackets) but has not entirely lost his reflexes. Even the children, he says, learn to enjoy identifying and handling bright, buzzing, and fluttering insects, but sometimes mistake a bee for a harmless "hover" fly.

Geneva plant station

The northeastern area will be served by a plant introduction station to be located at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. Working in cooperation with the Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS, three other regional stations for this work with plant materials are situated at Ames, Iowa, Experiment, Ga., and Pullman, Wash.

Conservation work gains 8 %

More conservation work was applied to the land through the Soil Conservation Service and cooperating agencies during year ending June 30, 1953, than in any previous year. According to SCS, the number of farmers and ranchers given technical and other aid by the SCS were at an all-time high. About 235,000 additional farmers and ranchers became cooperators during the year. Farmers and ranchers put into use 8 percent more newly applied practices. At the end of the year there were 2,549 soil conservation districts in the country. These included about 87 percent of all farms and ranches. SCS was cooperating with 2,477 of the districts, and was making plans to aid the others as fast as facilities would permit.

Emeritus Dean Rusk dies

Dean Henry P. Rusk, for 43 years a faculty member of the University of Illinois and from 1939 to 1952 Director of the Illinois Experiment Station, died January 8. A courageous research and educational leader and a wise counselor, his name will have a place in agricultural history. Through his chairmanship of the Agricultural Task Force of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, he had a hand in shaping recent agricultural policy. Many of the Commission's recommendations were incorporated in the recent reorganization of the Department of Agriculture. Dean Rusk received his B. S. and A. M. degrees at the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, and was awarded an honorary D. S. C. there a few years ago.

Makes friends as stock judge

Dean and Director Arthur D. Weber of Kansas State College, first overseas judge in the 155-year-old Smithfield Fat Stock Show in London, England, was praised for his competence, objectivity as a judge, friendliness, and agreeable manner, writes Dr. Eric Englund, U. S. Agricultural Attache. Dean Weber later visited leading biological scientists and briefly toured stockraising centers in England and Scotland.

Donovan in heart campaign

Henry Donovan, ARS, is coordinator of the annual Heart Fund campaign for the Washington area in February. Local associations have been organized in the field.

Statistician retires

Miss Lucile Gumaer, statistician of the Forest Service Division of Forest Economics, retired at the end of 1953. Coming from Pennsylvania she joined the Forest Service as junior clerk. She became statistical analyst of research manuscripts and reports to Congress. She has been a member of the National Federation of Federal Employees since 1926. She will live in Washington, D. C.

Quick test for liquid eggs

Sampling of liquid egg in the egg-breaking industry can be done much more economically and more quickly at the churn, where the product is mixed before freezing, than by drilling samples from the frozen product, as is now generally done. Samples of liquid egg taken at the churn were found to be as satisfactory as drilled samples for determining the total solids, fat and color content, and meringue test value. They were more accurate for the bacteriological and sanitary-condition tests. The study was made by the Poultry Division, AMS. A copy of circular 932, An Analysis of Commercial Frozen Egg Products, may be obtained from the Office of Information, USDA.

Foot-and-mouth disease note

WHILE AWAITING the completion of the foot-and-mouth disease laboratory at the Plum Island, N. Y., site, livestock scientists of USDA continue to cooperate with authorities on the disease in Europe. Dr. C. N. Dale, Dr. W. B. Ribelin, and Dr. Milton Savan of the staff of the Agricultural Research Service are serving as a research team abroad for the present.

Through cooperation with the Danes, British, and Dutch, it has been possible for United States investigators to study at close hand the severe epizootic in western Europe in 1951-52. Comparative studies on production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines with virus taken from experimentally inoculated cattle in Denmark, as well as virus production tissue cultures from Holland, have been in progress with a view to perfecting more useful and reliable vaccines. Work is also being done to determine the feasibility of preparing dried vaccines that will remain stable longer than the liquid type now in use. Likewise, tests to see how effective various disinfectants are against the disease virus have been continued.

Directly in charge of the current procedures in building the new institute laboratory on Plum Island is Dr. Maurice S. Shahan, who spent considerable time as active leader of the foot-and-mouth eradication work in Mexico. Dr. Jacob Traum, noted scientist, formerly with the University of California, will have charge of biological and bacteriological studies at the laboratory—which it is hoped will be well on toward completion next fall.

Fertilizer granulation

PRODUCTION OF granular mixed fertilizers in the U. S. amounted to about 1 million tons last year, and may increase by as much as 50 percent in the coming year, according to Robert R. Magness and John C. Hardesty of the Division of Fertilizer and Agricultural Lime, ARS, at Beltsville, Md. Most granulating plants usually try to increase the size of the particles. Definition of the particle-size range may be influenced by such factors as soil and crop characteristics, climate, method of fertilizer placement, and the nutrient solubility of mixtures. Studies indicate that the distribution of nutrients is fairly uniform. But nitrogen tended to be more uniformly distributed than phosphoric acid, which accumulates in the coarse fractions, or potash, which accumulates in the fine granules.

International co-op law book

Just off the press is the Handbook of International Cooperative Legislation. It is the first volume of a worldwide study by Dr. Laszlo Valko, State College of Washington, at Pullman. It is a nonprofit publication that is expected to be a guide for civil and other service officers at home and abroad engaged to work with cooperative institutions.

Fire ants invade

SURVEYS TO determine the distribution, relative abundance, and rate of spread of the imported fire ant (*Solenopsis saevissima* var. *richteri* Forel) were carried on periodically—from September 1949 to July 1953—in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in cooperation with these States. During each survey proper methods and materials for controlling this ant were demonstrated, and new infestations containing only a few colonies were treated.

In 1949, when the work was started, 20 counties in 3 States were found to be infested by the imported fire ant. They were in western Florida, southwest and south-central Alabama, and in southeast and eastern Mississippi. By contrast, in 1953, infestations had been found in 102 counties and parishes in 10 States. Infestations increased in Florida from 2 counties to 10; in Alabama from 9 to 26, and in Mississippi from 10 to 26. Isolated infestations were found in Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas in areas far removed from known infestations when the survey was started.

The initial methods—observing lawns, parks, parkways, roadsides, railroad rights-of-way, airports, pasturelands, and shipping docks, also contacting extension personnel and farmers—proved unsatisfactory. But, when the methods were changed to include the inspection of plant nurseries, several isolated infestations were found far removed from the general infestations in southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama. Also during the summer months, when vegetation is high and thick, the inspection of nurseries and detection of mounds was less difficult to observe than it was in general areas.

Equipment necessary for control and demonstration in connection with these surveys consisted of a rake, a 3-gallon sprinkling can, and a small amount of emulsifiable insecticide concentrate.

George H. Culpepper, USDA entomologist, took a leading part in conducting these surveys.

USDA: February 10, 1954

Brief and choice

Garden Club meets early

The USDA Garden Club at its January meeting elected the following officers: R. J. Haskell, Ext. president; A. W. True, ARS, vice president; and Jane Steffey, Ext. secretary-treasurer. Guest speaker was Robert E. Wester, Agricultural Research Service, who told of economical use of soil disinfectants, synthetic soil, and concentrated fertilizer in the home garden.

The Club's thanks to the retiring president, C. R. "Cy" Briggs, AMS, were expressed in a resolution offered by J. Roy Allgier, of ARS. Dr. Conrad Link, floriculturist, of the University of Maryland will give a lecture illustrated by Kodachromes on 'New Varieties of Flowers' at the next meeting.

USDA secretary earns CPS

Miss Zelma Hicks, Office of Information, probably is the first CPS in the Department's Washington offices. CPS means Certified Professional Secretary. Our compliments. Miss Hicks is one of 359 secretaries in the United States to receive this recognition, won by examination for professionalizing secretaryship, and sponsored by the National Secretaries Association. The examinations have been conducted for 3 years by the Institute for Certifying Secretaries. The CPS rating is gaining rapid recognition in industry. It is conferred for satisfactory completion of an examination on skills, techniques, and knowledges in the fields of business law, economics and business administration, secretarial accounting; stenography, including grammar, punctuation, composition of letters and reports; general secretarial and office procedures, and personal adjustment and human relations. The standards are high. Information about these examinations may be had from local NSA chapters, or from Dr. Estelle L. Popham, Dean of the Institute for Certifying Secretaries, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York City.

Style Manual editor dies

George R. Ranow, editorial assistant of the Government Printing Office, chairman of the GPO Style Board, and editor of the Style Manual, died January 18. He came to GPO from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he was superintendent of schools. He studied in leading universities in the United States and in England, and developed many constructive rules for styling manuscripts. Dr. Ranow's last work was an extensive revision of the Style Manual.

Emergency mixed feed

Secretary Benson announced the new emergency mixed feed program as follows: To provide maximum assistance to farmers in designated drought areas with available CCC stocks of grain, USDA is now offering CCC stocks of wheat and corn to feed mixers at the same reduced prices at which we are already making them available direct to farmers. These grains, in a quantity equal to the amounts purchased from CCC, are to be used in a mixed feed containing either (1) 50 percent corn, or (2) 50 percent corn and 25 percent wheat, with the remaining ingredients to be determined by the mixer.

Leghorn meat quality

THE MEAT of mature Leghorn hens is not only economical, it is also relatively high in palatability, according to a recent study by food specialists of the Agricultural Research Service. The results have an important bearing on the best utilization of hens culled from laying flocks. Layers usually are culled at 6, 18, or 30 months of age. The young culs can reasonably be expected to be tender and excellent for cooking, but because of the small size of Leghorns, the dressed birds may be mistaken for fryers. This and the market preference for meatier, younger chickens, plus a widespread opinion that the meat of the Leghorn is stringy and inferior, have resulted in a marketing problem in the fall.

The experimenters at Beltsville chose Leghorn chickens of three grades, kept them through different periods of frozen storage, and cooked them by three basic methods—pressure cooking, steaming, and simmering.

For all methods of cooking, the light meat scored more tender and less moist than the dark. The palatability tests scored most of the Leghorn meat samples relatively high. Cooked dark meat from mature hens stored for short periods up to 2 months was comparatively more tender than similar meats stored for 7 to 9 months, and light meat had better flavor.

Before cooking, the A grade hens gave highest percentage of carcass yield; cooked hens, however, showed higher percentage yields in lower grades. The percentage yield from 27-30-month-old hens was lower than for less mature hens. Rhode Island Red hens used for comparison gave higher percentages of dressed yield, but showed greater losses in drawing and cooking.

Technical Bulletin 1077, Relationship of Cooking Methods, Grades, and Frozen Storage to Quality of Cooked Mature Leghorn Hens, may be had from Office of Information, USDA.

Fred Ferguson, editor, dies

Fred E. Ferguson, professor and publications editor at Iowa State College, died December 27. He had been a member of the faculty for nearly 30 years. Ferguson was born on a farm near Laurens, Iowa. He was graduated from Iowa State College with a B. S. degree in animal husbandry in 1922, and was named publications editor in 1944. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Phi fraternities.

Ferguson earned a national reputation as a leading exponent of simplified reporting of scientific information, particularly in the field of agricultural research. Iowa State College publications have won many national awards under his editorship.

Thoughts in season

"I HAVE rediscovered the library" said the man-at-my-elbow. "It was not the library that was lost, but I that had neglected to keep up the library habit." The man, chained to his desk, had found no time to read and keep his brain well fed. Happily, he is renewing his practice of taking occasional brush-ups.

Many a high school boy has owned to an ambition to "read everything." In later life he has put aside that vain hope and begun to read with discrimination. Libraries today are organized to help the busy worker do just that. We had occasion lately to ask the USDA Library to help us explain a single important scientific phenomenon. This largest agricultural library in the world has some 10,000 numbered bulletins and books issued by the Department in the last 50 years and is approaching the million mark in books and other items on agriculture and science, gathered from all over the world. We knew the librarians must have what we wanted, yet we were surprised when an hour later came seven huge volumes, each duly carded and bookmarked at the proper page. We tried to show our gratitude by reading each reference and returning the books to the Library next day. Each of us has all the advantages of using this Library as well as the college, experiment station, and local libraries, at our need. It is good to remember that a library is much more than a building full of books—it is just as much a group of people trained, and fortified by every modern device of cataloging, indexing, abstracting, searching, and photographing, to make the desired information readily available. If you wish a statistic, a citation to a recognized authority, the published opinion of a subject-matter specialist, or an official report, you can get the material promptly and digest it to present to others as best you can.

And the library can take a load off you and your colleagues, who seem to be forever having to stop work in hand to answer questions we ought to be able to answer ourselves.

More folks to feed

CENSUS BUREAU'S population growth speedometer strikes a live spark in agricultural circles insofar as anticipation of food requirements are concerned. Their electric demonstrator device registered almost 161 million inhabitants of the United States less than a month ago. It flashes notice that the stork delivers a new citizen every 8 seconds.

Every 21 seconds the Grim Reaper cuts 1 off. An immigrant from abroad arrives every 2 minutes and every 17 minutes 1 person leaves us. The actual net gain as seen by the Census Bureau is 1 person every 12 seconds—5 to a minute and 300 to an hour.

According to leaders in State-Federal farm research activities, each year's population increase means that our food supply must be increased by the equivalent of the present production of all the farms in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey combined. The way to do it, they say, is to make land produce better, make labor more efficient, and preserve what is produced, to avoid waste and spoilage.

Today 1 farm worker produces enough for himself and 16 or 17 other persons not on farms. About a century ago 1 farm worker produced enough for himself and only 3 other persons. Will the reliable old stork eventually rid us of the "surplus" bogey?

Entomologists elect

E. R. McGovern of the technical staff, ARS-OES, reports that about 800 attended the first Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America which met at Los Angeles. ESA is a consolidated scientific society which prior to 1953 consisted of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America. The program included 176 papers, invitational and reports on research. H. H. Ross of the Illinois History Survey is president for 1954. Dr. Ashley B. Gurney, formerly of the Entomology Research Branch, ARS, was chosen executive secretary.

Flying conservationists

Washington farmers will take to the air in the spring to study erosion control and related farm problems. Orchards, irrigation systems, and land use projects will be observed. The State Conservation Air Tours committee is arranging for landing strips, insurance, low-cost fares, and carefully marked points of observation. Conservationists will save time, and by looking down, will keep conservation practices looking up.

Six-State drive on insects

A six-State conference of State colleges and USDA entomologists met at Pullman, Washington, January 18-20 to pool research findings and review chemicals for fighting vegetable insects. British Columbia was also represented.

Garman joins plant food group

Dr. W. H. Garman, experiment station administrator for soil technology, resigned this month to become technical leader of the American Plant Food Council, in Washington, D. C. He holds three degrees from Pennsylvania State College, and formerly taught in southern state colleges.

OPEDA plans dinner

A get-together dinner is planned by The Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture this spring. The dinner will be part of the 25th anniversary celebration.

Quality farming, better living

Striving toward farming and better living, was the major trend among Negro farmers this year, and the outlook is good for a continuation of these trends in 1954, says John W. Mitchell, national extension leader in the Department. But not all farmers are doing so well. The principal reasons, he thinks, are: (1) Failure to adopt modern practices, (2) slowness in developing pastures and adding livestock, (3) planting poor varieties of corn and other crops, (4) taking chances and letting insects and diseases claim a sizeable share of their products, and (5) lack of adequate credit resources to expand their operations into a sound economic unit.

Disability clause

Learn more about the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. Any loss of wages or wage-earning capacity due to disability sustained from work injury entitles you to a monetary benefit at the rate of two-thirds of your salary or wage loss, if you have no dependents; and 75 percent for periods under which you have one or more dependents. Maximum monthly benefits are \$525 and the minimum is \$112.50, or your full monthly rate if it is less than that.

Farm editors pleased

Expressions of great satisfaction over the program of research and information supplied to them during their September meeting in the Department was voiced by the officers of the American Agricultural Editors' Association. Fully 65 members attended, representing many States and specialized farm interests.

More plant pests by air

It took 60 pages of fine print to list the plant pests intercepted on entering the United States in 1952. The 39th annual list, issued recently by Agricultural Research Service, indicates that increasing numbers of plant pathogens and pests are arriving by air. The most important of these continue to be the golden nematode and the fruit flies.

Response of the press

Newspaper editorials, signed articles, and columns commenting on activities of the Department are received by the Office of Information at a rate of about 400 per week. General interest in reorganization recently swelled the number considerably. A majority of the comments were favorable to Department policies and programs.

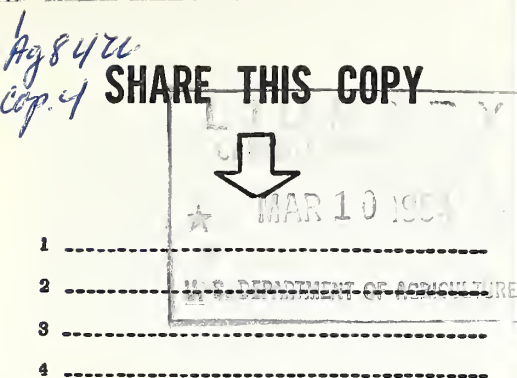
Sourcebooks for conservation

"Books, Booklets, and Bulletins on Soil and Water Conservation" is the expansive title of new AIB No. 63. It is annotated bibliography that just about covers the earth. For this educational booklet, write to Inquiries and Distribution, USDA.

That book is good which puts me in a working mood.—Emerson

February 10, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 3

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 24, 1954

Disease-resistant forests

BREEDING FOREST trees resistant to disease is one approach to the problem of reducing tree losses, says Dr. Lee M. Hutchins, head of the Division of Forest Disease Research in the Forest Service. Since forest tree diseases occur with alarming frequency and rate along with fire in the destruction of timber each year, Dr. Hutchins believes studies must be directed to forestalling the buildup of forest tree disease epidemics. Development of disease-resistant trees is the best way to accomplish this, thus increasing the productivity of future forest stands to supply the growing needs of the wood-using industries.

The forestry people find no quick and easy routes to this goal. Within a species, trees will vary widely in their resistance to most native and to many foreign diseases. Through selection and breeding, forest stands may be developed that are disease resistant. Such programs have been started. Dr. Hutchins points out that significant progress has been made in breeding strains of white pine resistant to white pine blister rust; chestnut trees resistant to the chestnut blight that killed off the American chestnut; elms resistant to Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis; and strains of poplar trees resistant to several diseases. Projects under way include the following:

White pines.—Selection and breeding white pines for resistance to blister rust is being carried on by the U. S. Forest Service cooperatively with the University of Wisconsin, and in Idaho, Montana, and Washington, in the Intermountain Forest Experiment region.

Chestnuts.—Selection and breeding of chestnuts (oriental types) is a project of the Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS, at Beltsville, Md.; also, cooperatively with the Agricultural Experiment Station, at New Haven, Conn.

Elms.—For resistance to Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis, by Horticultural Research Branch, ARS, at Columbus, Ohio. Much progress has been made against phloem necrosis, and improved spraying methods have been developed in combating the beetle that carries Dutch elm disease.

Department well managed

Personnel and administrative procedure in the U. S. Department of Agriculture compares favorably with the best in private industry. This conclusion was expressed by Dr. G. E. Hilbert, Chief of AIC-ARS at an OPEDA luncheon, January 19, following his return from the Harvard School of Business, where business executives and Government administrative officers attended an intensive 3-month course recently. L. N. Hoopes, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, who had had a similar course, expressed a similar view. In response to a question, Dr. Hilbert quoted a London economist that the American housewives, who hold the purse strings, are likely to determine whether or not the products of the farms move into consumption.

For better letters

WRITE GOOD letters, and write them promptly. This is what Secretary Benson asks of letter writers in the Department. He is taking steps to help bring about improvement in our correspondence.

The importance of correspondence in maintaining good relations with farmers and the public was discussed at the first regular monthly luncheon which the Secretary and members of his immediate staff hold with group and service heads.

Ernest C. Betts, Assistant to the Secretary, has been given the responsibility of reviewing all jacketed (front office) correspondence to see that it meets the Secretary's requirements. Mr. Betts is also concerned with the quality of correspondence generally throughout the Department.

Training officers are taking the lead in pushing plans to improve correspondence in the various services. Procedures specialists are studying the flow of correspondence to see how it can be speeded up.

You will be hearing more about this. In the meantime, to brush up on procedural requirements, in handling Secretary's correspondence, take a fresh look at Secretary's Memorandum No. 1323, dated February 21, 1953, and Supplement No. 1, dated December 11, 1953.

Other instruction on correspondence may be obtained from your personnel or administrative office. USDA will report on developments from time to time.

More grain research urged

INTENSIFICATION OF breeding work with corn, wheat, barley, and oats and expansion of research on insects and on insecticide residues were recommended by the Research Marketing Act Grain Research Advisory Committee, which met in Washington late in January. Fundamental research on insect resistance to insecticides and more study of weed control in all grain crops also were

recommended. Domestic and foreign educational programs on the value of wheat as food, and related programs, were advised.

Dr. W. V. Lambert, Dean of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska, was elected chairman of the committee and Lewis G. Graeves, Washington, D. C., is vice chairman. Also attending the meeting were Henry L. Cox, Corn Products Refining Company, Argo, Ill.; Gordon Day, producer, Onida, S. Dak.; M. D. Guild, Indiana Grain Cooperative, Indianapolis, Ind.; Roy F. Hendrickson, National Federation of Grain Coops., Washington, D. C.; Ralph P. McEwen, producer, Athena, Oreg.; Don A. Stevens, General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.; Frank A. Theis, Simonds-Shields-Theis Grain Co., Kansas City, Mo.; and John B. Wilson, Jr., producer, Bowling Green, Ohio. J. Roy Allgyer of the Agricultural Research Service is executive secretary of the committee.

Upstream flood program

MUCH INTEREST is shown in the Department's upstream flood prevention programs, as shown by letters of inquiry received by D. A. Williams, Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service. Many ask for work plans developed cooperatively with local sponsoring agencies. Some of this material is available in State offices of SCS but designs and final plans will not be available in Washington for some time. Final planning on small watersheds began October 1.

The small-watershed projects being planned cooperatively with local organizations will be financed approximately 50 percent by non-Federal funds. SCS is inviting other State and Federal agencies in agriculture, forestry, land management, water, fish and wildlife fields to collaborate with it in aiding the local people to carry out the kind of watershed-protection programs they desire, within the limits of sound engineering and economic feasibility.

Puerto Rico follows plan

THE COMMONWEALTH of Puerto Rico plans to make good use of the report "A Comprehensive Agricultural Program for Puerto Rico," which was issued in book form last fall by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Commonwealth is moving ahead on a broad front carrying out many of the recommendations contained in this 300-page report.

The farm editor of the Miami (Fla.) Herald, in a recently published Sunday feature article described it as a far-reaching agriculture program calling for nothing less than making the population of Puerto Rico more nearly self-supporting through modern farm practices and recognized economic measures. The writer of that article had been sent by his newspaper to Puerto Rico to study the impact that the agricultural program report was having on the island. The report itself was the result of a study made at the request of the Governor of Puerto Rico and conducted jointly by agencies of the Commonwealth and the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the direction of Nathan Koenig of the Office of the Secretary. The book in which the report is embodied was written by Mr. Koenig.

The Florida newspaper quotes the "Koenig report" at length, and by way of summary lists as 15 points, the principal recommendations as set forth in the book. Recent progress is pointed out and additional programs calling for erosion control, better farm practices, new crop varieties, insurance, processing of foods, marketing, more irrigation, forestry, research, and cooperation are highlighted. How the overall agricultural program is to work is indicated by the success of the coffee plan, also developed by Mr. Koenig, which by education and cooperative effort, increased the output by nearly three times, and the value from \$8 million to \$20 million in 3 years. The page-and-a-quarter article in the Sunday paper, was amply illustrated.

How the Puerto Ricans are taking hold of the "Koenig report" is also indicated in Spanish in *El Mundo*, San Juan newspaper, for December 29. One of the first broad educational programs of self-help is announced with the introduction of the book into the Puerto Rican schools. Secretary of Education, Sr. Mariano Villaronga reports that the book will enrich the reference shelves of the eighth grade and that copies will be good texts or sourcebooks for study in high schools. They are particularly recommended for use in the social science courses.

The book is reviewed in the January number of *Agricultural Economics Research*, Agricultural Marketing Service; also in *Foreign Agriculture*, FAS, and *Soil Conservation*, SCS.

USDA keeps tab on futures

TO SEE whether delivery settlements on futures contracts in agricultural products involve normal competitive purposes, or possible manipulative activities, Commodity Exchange Authority has recently maintained particularly close surveillance on delivery settlements of open contracts in expiring futures. More than 200 futures in regulated commodities "expired" in the 1953 fiscal year, and about the same number of new ones were opened for tradings. Delivery settlements on futures contracts—ordinarily small as compared with settlements by offset—increased considerably in 1953, as result of the larger supply situation. CEA kept currently informed on the size and location of commodity stocks available for delivery, the issuance of delivery notices in the markets, and the operations of large traders who became involved in the delivery process.

Administrator J. M. Mehl, in the CEA Annual Report to the Secretary of Agriculture, places the value of futures transactions during the year at \$45,560,276,000; number of futures purchases and sales in terms of contract units, 8,792,000; number of traders in the futures markets, 31,573; average number of large speculators and hedgers reporting daily to CEA, 719; futures commission merchants and floor brokers registered during the year, 1,524; audits of commodity brokerage firms, 605; number of agricultural commodities covered by CEA regulation, 19; special investigations during year, 48; violations uncovered and formally dealt with, 26; days during the year when wheat futures prices fluctuated the permissible limit, 2; cotton, corn, and soybeans, none.

Insects score high

The Entomology Research Branch and the Extension Service find that during the growing season about 36 percent of requests for information directed to county agents concern insects and insect control.

Federal editors plan panel

The Federal Editors Association is preparing for a panel discussion of the problems of departmental publications, February 24. At the January 28 meeting, Mrs. Mabel H. Doyle, I, discussed indexing. March 26, Mrs. Catherine Beauchamp, president of the Association, will report on a survey of periodicals which she completed recently. Mrs. Clara Ackerman, editor of the Extension Service Review, is secretary of the periodical editors' group.

Suggestion wins \$160

Ralph E. Kennard SCS, Budget and Finance division, has been awarded \$160 for suggesting a simplified payroll procedure. The suggestion was: To discontinue use of the Standard Form No. 1096, Schedule of Voucher Deductions, to effect deductions from payrolls for retirement, taxes, and purchase of U. S. Savings Bonds, such deductions to be made on the basis of instructions inserted on the voucher and schedule of payments, Standard Form No. 1166. SCS is using the procedure as a pilot study.

Work on Supervisor's guide

Three USDA people—Mrs. Catherine Doherty, FS, Dr. A. R. Miller, ARS, and N. R. Bear, OP—met recently with the Civil Service Commission to review the proposed guide for Federal executives and supervisors. The guide is intended to help the supervisor in carrying out his responsibilities as a personnel manager.

Achilles Heel of Halogeton

Following research on the poisonous range weed halogeton, University of Idaho scientists conclude that it will remain on the Intermountain ranges as a permanent resident. Beginning studies on control, however, show much promise through reseeding the ranges. Halogeton is sensitive to competition from vigorous stands of grass or perennial vegetation and is believed to constitute a problem only on areas where the native vegetation has been depleted.

Promotions

James H. Starkey has been promoted to Director of Personnel Division, ARS. John P. McAuley, formerly personnel officer for BPISAE at Beltsville, has been promoted to assistant director of the division.

Larger scope for Dallas

The Dallas, Texas, office of CSS has been directed to handle price supports for nine additional Southern States. Director C. H. Moseley announced there will be little if any increase in personnel, but that future needs will be dependent entirely on the program volume.

USDA speeds Dr. Cardon

Dr. F. V. Cardon, who has assumed his new duties as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, at Rome, Italy, was given an ovation at the Department auditorium in January. Secretary Ezra Taft Benson and members of his staff commended Dr. Cardon, formerly of the USDA, for accepting a global responsibility.

Dr. Cardon said that in working for the Department of Agriculture for 45 years he had always found there was no lack of interest in him so long as he was trying to do the work of the Department. In Rome he was assured of earnest cooperation on the part of FAO officers and the delegates of the 80 nations now members of the Organization.

Congressman William S. Hill of Colorado spoke of his surprise at finding so many English-speaking members at the FAO meeting at Rome. He also found among the delegates an almost universal preoccupation with food problems. The United States is looked to for cooperation in their solution.

A reception by the Graduate School of USDA, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary, and the Food and Agriculture Organization, was held for Dr. Cardon February 3.

Chew it over

We ought to learn from the kine one thing: ruminating.—NIETZSCHE

USDA: February 24, 1954

If you are a writer of bulletins for the Department and face the problem of preparing citations to literature, it will help you to bear in mind the principal purposes of citations. These, given by Miss Frances Flick, forestry librarian in the Department Library, in a recent lecture are the following: First, they support the text. Next, they amplify the text by supplying additional information or the sources for it. They also make it possible to present the subject more briefly and effectively. The text can cover the main points, and if the reader is interested, he can read further in the libraries.

Cotton-bug milestones

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine states that the first direct Federal appropriation to support a research laboratory on cotton insects was set up on a continuing basis at Victoria, Tex., in 1902. The only early field laboratory that has been continued to the present time is located at Tallulah, La., established in 1909. There are 7 main and 4 sublaboratories now engaged in USDA cotton insect research.

First PCA charter

Twenty years ago this September the first Production Credit Association received its charter. It was located at Champaign, Ill. The present Governor of the Farm Credit Administration—"Cap" Arnold—helped to organize it. There are now 500 PCA's with 480,000 members serving every farm section of the country.

Progress in studies of bloat

SOAPY LATHER-FORMING materials (saponins) in alfalfa were recently shown to be one of the causes of bloat in cattle, sheep, and goats, and the discovery may be an important clue to one of the worst troubles of the farm and dairy.

W. D. Maclay and associates of Western Regional Laboratory, ARS, Albany, Calif., devised a method for recovering several pounds of saponin per ton of dry alfalfa and sent the material to Beltsville, where I. L. Lindahl and co-workers fed it to young stock. In 8 tests out of 10, the saponin caused distention of the rumen, and in one case immediate treatment was required to prevent death of the animal.

The Government and industry have undertaken to find the cause of bloat and to prevent losses of animals, reduction of milk yields, and slow-down in fattening of beef cattle. The California Agricultural Experiment Station is planning to investigate further the toxic forms of saponins in alfalfa and certain clovers. Maryland, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin stations are co-operating with the Department in the alfalfa study and other States are working independently in a search for other possible causes of bloat.

USDA: February 24, 1954

Brief and choice

OES Organization

Dr. Erwin C. Elting has been designated to serve as Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Experiment Stations. Two directors of divisions have also been named. They are: Dr. H. C. Knoblauch, Director of the State Experiment Stations Division, which will be responsible for administration of the Federal research grants, and Dr. D. V. Lumsden, Director of the Territorial Experiment Stations in Puerto Rico and Alaska and the research and extension program in the Virgin Islands. The Federal programs in Alaska and Puerto Rico are coordinated closely with those of the agricultural experiment stations of the Universities of Alaska and Puerto Rico. Dr. Elting and Dr. Lumsden made a 12-day trip to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, where they surveyed research needs under the Territorial Division program.

AFI to meet in Madrid

The Tenth International Congress of Agricultural and Food Industries will be held at Madrid, Spain, May 30 to June 6. The Congress will deal with the processing and utilization of agricultural commodities.

Farm prices firmer

Prices of several major farm products have firmed up since mid-November, according to Agricultural Marketing Service (formerly BAE) late in January. Seasonal tapering off in marketings and smaller commercial supplies of some products are credited mainly for the increases. With higher prices for hogs, corn, soybeans, and some other commodities, prices of farm production in wholesale markets in mid-January averaged more than 5 percent above mid-November. The index of prices received by farmers went up 4 percent during the same 2-month period.

Soybean parity, 80 percent

The national average support price for soybeans for 1954 will be \$2.22 per bushel, the Department announced January 22. This equals 80 percent of the December 15, 1953, parity price for all soybeans. Last year the support price was 90 percent of parity. The new level is expected to keep this year's soybean acreage in approximate balance with production needs without resort to acreage controls. If many farmers shift from the basic crops under acreage control to soybeans, it would increase the price support obligations. Loans and purchase agreements will be obtainable through Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county committees from time of harvest through January 31, 1955. The 1954 price support program for soybeans was announced in accordance with the "forward pricing" provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

G. & T. loans continue

At a session of the managers for power-type borrowers, held by the Rural Electrification Administration at Washington on November 2, 1953, this statement was made by Ancher Nelsen, Administrator of REA: "We have made no change in REA's long-standing policies concerning generation and transmission (G. & T.) loans to borrowers. I regard the G. & T. loan authority as a vital and essential feature of our program. If it is administered soundly in the national interest and is not abused, I am convinced that we can retain it and make G. & T. loans serve rural people as they are intended to do. What is fair and honorable and reasonable will prevail in the long run, and it is a challenge to us all to keep those standards."

Strength in career men

"THE PAST year can be characterized as a year of change," writes Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, in the annual report. "Three factors—the changing status of the national forests, a new top team in the Forest Service, and a new national Administration—all spell change, not only for the past year but also for the years ahead.

"The national forests are becoming increasingly valuable properties subject to ever greater use. And their administrators are becoming subject to ever greater pressures. We welcome this change as part of the normal development of our economy and the normal increase in our population. The national forests are no longer hinterlands.

"The strength of the Forest Service lies in its long-term career personnel, who are devoting their lives to public service. Yet the leaders of the Service—the Assistant Chiefs, the Regional Foresters, and the Directors of our regional forest and range experiment stations—are nearly all relatively new in their present assignments. All are professional men of competence with long experience in the Forest Service. The Forest Service will continue to serve the American people in conservation."

Dairy book to date

The fourth edition of "Dairy Cattle Feeding and Management," with eight new chapters and many changes throughout, is off the press. The revision is by H. O. Henderson, professor of dairy industry at West Virginia University, and Paul M. Reeves, professor of dairy industry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Their treatment of such subjects as minerals and vitamins, artificial breeding, feeding of hay-crop silage, management, and marketing is factual and temperate, and their approach to new problems logical and modern. The authors also call attention to the need for more dairy research. The publisher is John Wiley and Sons.

War on rose blackspot

Breeding of new varieties of roses to develop resistance to blackspot disease will be undertaken at Beltsville Experiment Station, ARS, this spring. A study in 1953 indicated that the disease may come from different races of the causal fungus in different localities, with the result that a rose resistant to blackspot in one area is often found infected when planted in another. Twenty varieties of roses were used in the tests. It is hoped by extensive crossing over a number of years to produce roses free, or nearly free, from blackspot. The American Rose Society co-operated with the Station in the study.

Choosing the sewing machine

How to pick the sewing machine—a lifetime investment—is told by the new Home and Garden Bulletin 38, Buying your Home Sewing Machine, prepared cooperatively by the extension services of West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and USDA. The bulletin is brief and well illustrated. Copies available, Office of Information, USDA.

Motion picture workshop

DRAWN TOGETHER by the motion picture workshop, more than 100 representatives of the land-grant colleges, broadcasting companies, local universities, USDA, and other Government agencies were the guests of the Office of Information the last week in January. Films for television were discussed in detail by working experts from departmental and State offices.

Visitors were welcomed by Under Secretary True D. Morse. Administrator C. M. Ferguson, Federal Extension Service, spoke of the impact of motion pictures and their effective use on television. John Morrow, Audio-Visual Director, National Project in Agricultural Communications (Kellogg Foundation), East Lansing, Mich., outlined the audio-visual program of the NPAC.

George Dorsey, production manager of local station WNBW, described the problems and operating rules for the use of motion pictures and film material in commercial television. Lyle Webster, Director of Information, was toastmaster at the final dinner, which featured a talk by Robert Mullen, Executive Director of the National Citizens' Committee for Educational Television. Jim Gibson, Assistant Chief of the Motion Picture Service, who organized and supervised the workshop, reports that agricultural colleges of 14 States and Canada were represented at the meetings. Planning for next year's workshop has already started.

Junior scientist research

AN ATTEMPT to determine aptitude, attitude, and background of junior scientists, employed in the Department through the Junior Agricultural Assistant examination is one of the aims of a research project now under way. The plan involves a cooperative study of the examining program by the Land-Grant Colleges, the Civil Service Commission, and the Department of Agriculture. Comprehensive tests will be administered to agriculture seniors in the colleges this spring and an attempt will be made to follow the career of each student over a 5-year period.

Other objectives are the following:

1. A comparison of Land-Grant College seniors as a whole with that segment of them who apply for entrance professional positions in the Department of Agriculture.
2. An attempt to determine the difference between students who return to farm work and those who accept other employment in the field of agriculture, particularly those who accept Government positions.

3. An attempt to determine the correlation between certain measurable factors and the degree of success in various occupational fields.

How to know cheeses

How many kinds of cheese can you identify, and how many kinds are there? We cannot answer these questions for you, but the Department of Agriculture's lately revised booklet on Cheese Varieties, Agricultural Handbook 54, describes some 500 kinds. The descriptions help in identifying cheeses, though they do not tell how to make them. Wherever in the world animals are milked, some of the surplus product goes into the making of cheese. One of the oldest of the farm household arts, cheesemaking has become an industry producing more than a billion pounds a year in the United States. About one-tenth of the milk produced here goes into cheese.

Feed for drought areas

With the designation on January 26 of parts of six additional counties in Utah and Nevada as drought disaster areas, drought disaster counties in 18 States and Hawaii reached a total of 708. Secretary Ezra Taft Benson is offering the feed emergency program to eligible farmers in all these counties to help livestock raisers and dairymen to maintain their basic herds. Applications for the purchase of feed must be made to County Drought Emergency Committees, which determine eligibility.

X more days for tax returns

We are grateful for the 10-percent cut in Federal income taxes for 1954. Wish the cut applied to 1953 taxes, now due, with a March 15th limit for sending in returns. The form for 1953 taxes is substantially the same as that for 1952, so we have had some practice in filling it out. But the job requires time, and we don't want to be tearing our hair during the last week before the deadline.

Wool staple length

Customary trade practice does not classify wool by its staple length, such as cotton bears. USDA specialists have suggested in a report that classifications of fleece wool be based on definite length ranges. Beginning with fine wool of the longest staple it is suggested that 2.5 inches or longer be the rule, and that wool of the next shortest staple length graded as "good French combing" be that with most of the staples not less than 2 inches. Inch designations are also given for $\frac{1}{2}$ blood, $\frac{3}{4}$ blood and other presently indicated grades. These changes may later be proposed for official use, following trade discussion. Livestock Branch in the Agricultural Marketing Service distributes the wool staple length report.

Dr. Giltner retiring

Dr. Leigh T. Giltner, veterinarian and consultant in the Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, ARS, will retire February 26. His official career began in the Department of Agriculture in 1914 and, except for a few years spent in Delaware, he had remained with the Department since then.

Dr. Giltner was graduated from Cornell University, and is widely acquainted in college circles from coast to coast. For many years with the Pathological Division in Animal Industry, he did laboratory and field work in animal diseases, including infectious and noninfectious types. Once, studying brucellosis, he contracted undulant fever. He made many investigations of infections carried to animals by mosquitoes. Noted for his experience and good memory, Dr. Giltner came to be relied on as an authority and consultant in many fields.

Thoughts in season

"THE FUTURE is a world limited by ourselves." And who dares to step forth boldly into the full glare of a future day? A few among the writers have done this. Not many. Mostly they prefer to look back to the firm familiar shores of the past: the theme is as old as Job. It may take courage to the point of rashness to challenge the future, but country people have to do it every spring. So, in a measure, must all of us.

There is a man in Agriculture who early in his scientific career sat long nights through to keep count of how many times a setting hen turned her eggs in her nest. Some of us smiled. Yet out of this bit of sleepless research on the ways of nature came first-hand information valuable in perfecting mechanical hatching of the 1.9 billion chicks we produce in a year to keep a \$4 billion dollar industry going. It also, no doubt, took a lot of watching and timing of chicks, from the first pip to the chick's final emergence, to establish the proper thickness of eggshells for ideal hatching.

The men who lose sleep solving problems for the rest of us probably sometimes feel baffled and a little foolish too, but they keep right on with their observations and applications of their findings to practical operations. They have to keep chipping away at walls of our ignorance. They have to come out of their shells.

A prime reason for tackling new jobs or finding fresh ideas and new work in old ones is that the effort put forth cracks the shell of routine, too rigid conventionality, timidity, or complacency. We need to release new ambition to excel.

No lecture this, nor heavy thinking. Just an intimation of hopeful spring, and maybe the wary outthrust of another neck!

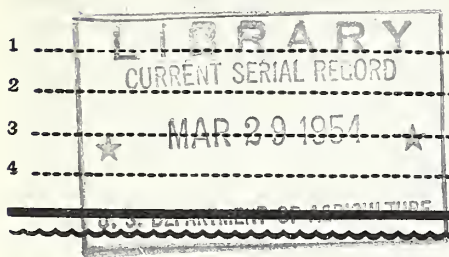
Have you thought about joining a hobby association?

February 24, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 4

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 10, 1954

Mr. Coke sees progress

EVERY FEDERAL employee likes to know about his job and what he is expected to do. His performance improves as his understanding grows. How the Department is building up morale and a spirit of cooperation through information was a principal point in a talk by Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke at the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture meeting February 17.

Assistant Secretary Coke discussed the overall reorganization plans announced in November by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, placing all activities of the Department under the four main groups: Federal-States Relations, Marketing and Foreign Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization, and Agricultural Credit. The reorganization came after a long series of conferences and through consideration of all suggestions. Mr. Coke said that the States-Relations group is making good progress in improving understanding and cooperation in the States and through the country generally. This improvement is making itself felt in all Department offices. Growth of the spirit of helpfulness is the almost "invisible element" in progress, he told OPEDA, and this improvement is substantial in all groups.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as follows:

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE: Oscar F. Beyer, Administrative Officer, Chicago, Ill.; Frank S. Eddins, Cotton Technologist, College Station, Tex.; Mrs. Saten M. Kazar, Clerk-Stenographer, Detroit, Mich.; Cecelia M. Tollefson, Administrative Assistant, Chicago, Ill.; Gaylord L. Walker, Sugar Market Reporter, Washington, D. C.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE: Ernest V. Abbott, Plant Pathologist, Houma, La.

COMMODITY STABILIZATION SERVICE: Carl J. Hansen, Fruit and Vegetable Market Reporter, Portland, Oreg.; Rafael Jordon, Administrative Assistant, Washington, D. C.; Audrey L. Sue, Administrative Clerk (Typist), Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. Whirlgel Steinhart, File Clerk, Chicago, Ill.; Fern Swineford, Card Punch Supervisor, Chicago, Ill.; Catherine M. Viehmann, Information and Editorial Specialist, Washington, D. C.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Myrtle J. Noraker, Clerk-Typist, Cando, N. Dak.; Robert C. Vittetoe, Farm Management Supervisor, San Benito, Tex.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE: Howard M. Kelsey, Soil Conservation Aid, Jackson, Mich.; Robert S. Miller, Civil Engineer, Sacramento, Calif.; Douglas H. Sarr, Soil Conservation Aid, Kingston, N. Y.

Citizen participation

ONE KEY to success in agricultural programs is citizen participation.

The best staff and line work of Department employees must gain the support of the interested farmers and the public to be effective. Every Department branch or employee needs the understanding and cooperation of other units and individuals to do the best work. These conclusions are distilled from the experience of Barnard Joy, of the Agricultural Research Service, who is executive secretary of the Agricultural Research Policy Committee.

Besides his job as executive secretary, Dr. Joy coordinates the operations of the 20 functional and commodity advisory committees in the Department, established pursuant to the provisions of Title III of the Research and Marketing Act. These committees advise the research groups in Agricultural Research Service, and those in Agricultural Marketing Service, Forest Service, and Farmer Cooperative Service.

Many of the Department projects are participated in by farmers, processors, and such other representatives of the public as local committeemen, correspondents, and market representatives. Thousands answer questionnaires in surveys of consumer preferences, farmer approval, and the like. There are also thousands of cooperators in practical demonstrations of new practices. Volunteer committees serve our land-grant colleges, and much of the success of 4-H Club and home demonstration work depends upon local leaders.

Dr. Joy was graduated from Oregon State College and has a Ed. D. from George Washington University. He has been a county 4-H Club agent and a member of the Field Studies and Training staff of the Federal Extension Service. During World War II he was deputy to M. C. Wilson in the Extension Farm Labor program. The job took him

to many places, and gave countless contacts with farm workers and with those who wrote on labor subjects. He supervised the development of circulars and maps for the guidance of migratory farm workers. These guides for migratory workmen were the basis for similar guides still being used effectively by the Department of Labor.

Decision is vital, he says, but the best decision usually is one based on sound advice from those who are most interested in the results.

Mutual "reinsurance"

THE RISE in valuation and the cost of replacing farm buildings and crops lost by fire and other causes have made it desirable for farmers mutual insurance companies to "reinsure" against excessive losses. The number of risks (fire, lightning, etc.) varies in the different States. By transferring part of the ultimate liability of loss from one insurance company to another, the mutual is able to insure itself against losses beyond an amount the officers think it can carry, considering the size of its safety funds. Thirteen State associations of mutual companies have sponsored reinsurance programs.

The farmer has no direct interest in a particular reinsurance transaction involving his property, but a company with adequate reinsurance is ordinarily in better position to pay heavy losses without extra assessment on its members. The author, Ralph R. Botts, agricultural economist, ARS, explains the different plans of reinsurance to give the farmer satisfactory coverage.

Dallas USDA in the news

We wish to thank President R. N. Richardson, CSS, and the staff of the Dallas USDA Club News for copy of the first issue under new management. Of the 28 reporters named to the staff, representing FHA, AMS, CSS, and the various services, 10 contributed to the issue, and the others are falling in line.

Recent appointments

THE FOLLOWING appointments have been announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson: Theodore S. Gold, Assistant to Under Secretary Morse. Mr. Gold owns and operates a dairy farm near Cornwall, Conn. He has twice been President of the Connecticut Dairymen's Association, was a director of the Connecticut State Farm Bureau Federation, is a Past Master of the Cornwall Grange, and was Chairman of the Commission to Make a Study and Report on the Eradication of Brucellosis in Connecticut. He holds a B. S. degree from Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

Clyde A. Wheeler, Jr., Assistant to Assistant Secretary Rizley. Mr. Wheeler comes from Laverne, Okla. He was reared on a farm in northwestern Oklahoma and participates in the operation of a family cattle farm in that area. From January 1951 until his present appointment, he served as executive secretary to Representative Belcher of Oklahoma. He holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts degree from Oklahoma A. & M. College.

James A. McConnell, of Ithaca, N. Y., has been appointed by Secretary Benson as Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service. He succeeds Howard A. Gordon, who resigned to return to his position with the Southern States Cooperative, at Richmond, Va. Mr. Gordon will continue as consultant to the Administrator. Mr. McConnell has had much farm experience and operates a dairy and poultry farm near Mansfield, Pa. He is a graduate of Cornell University and has been active in farm organizations.

Harvey A. Dahl, Assistant to R. L. Farrington, Director of Agricultural Credit Services. Mr. Dahl owns and operates a 500-head cattle ranch in Elko County, Nev. A great part of his life has been spent in cattle ranching and wheat farming and as a commercial buyer and shipper of livestock. He served as a member of the National Farm Labor Advisory Council established by the Department of Labor. He attended Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah.

Secretary Benson also announced the appointment of Clay H. Stackhouse of Ohio as assistant deputy administrator for Production Adjustment in the Commodity Stabilization Service. Mr. Stackhouse will help in the development of production adjustment programs, and

the administration of those adjustment and price-support programs handled through the farmer committee system. He was born on a farm in Sandusky county, Ohio. Since 1927 he has managed a farm in Huron County, on which an advanced system of conservation farming has been followed. He has also owned and managed a 325-acre livestock and general crop farm. An active member of both the Grange and the Farm Bureau, Mr. Stackhouse has had extensive experience in farm organization and service work. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Forestry Association; and former vice-president of the State Board of Agriculture of Ohio. He was graduated from Ohio State University in 1925. Mr. Stackhouse served since last August as chairman of the Ohio Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

The appointment of Howard J. Doggett of Montana as director, Northwest Area, Commodity Stabilization Service, effective immediately, was also announced. Since last August, Mr. Doggett has been chairman of the Montana State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. As Northwest Area Director, Mr. Doggett will be responsible for the administration of production adjustment and price-support programs through the farmer committee system in Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming. Mr. Doggett was raised on a ranch in Broadwater County, Mont., and has been actively engaged in farming and ranching. His home is in Townsend, Mont. He is past president and director of the Montana Wool Growers Association; member of the Montana Stock Growers Association; director, Western Life Insurance Co. He is a graduate of the University of Montana. A. O. Kelly, will continue as deputy director of the Northwest area.

Civil Service objective

Raising the prestige of the Government service and improving the morale of Government employees is an important Civil Service objective in which every Federal agency can participate, Chairman Philip Young of the U. S. Civil Service Commission said in a recent talk before the Public Information Luncheon Group in Washington. "One of the most important objectives enunciated by our President is 'to strengthen the career service so that it may command the esteem of the whole nation,'" Chairman Young stated. "The job of raising the prestige of the career service and of career workers will require greater public information resources—and since all agencies have a stake in the telling of the Government story, we must call on the agency public information personnel to participate in this program."

TV got quick results

MARK UP one for Television! This is the story as told by Alice Skelsey of the Office of Information Radio and Television Service. A TV "package program" on the swine disease Vesicular Exanthema, or VE, as it is commonly called, was produced by the Department of Agriculture and mailed to some 80 television stations throughout the country Friday, January 29. One of these "packages" went to Little Rock, Ark.

On the Wednesday following, W. H. "Bill" Hadley, KRTV, Little Rock, used this 4-minute film clip as a feature on his noon television program. The film featured the symptoms of VE—a reluctance to walk, painful limping, and blisters in the mouth and nostrils and on the feet. One farmer listening in in that area immediately phoned in that his hogs acted the same way. Could this be VE? Another call brought a Federal inspector who confirmed the farmer's suspicions. The next day the premises were placed under State quarantine. VE had been eradicated from all that section of the country, and there was not a known case within hundreds of miles. TV, and an interested viewer, had uncovered a new outbreak.

4-H Club Foundation moves

THE NATIONAL 4-H Club Foundation staff, which has been housed with the Federal Extension Service, has moved to 8561 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Md. In mid-1955 the Foundation plans to move again to the National 4-H Club Center, at Chevy Chase, Md., for its permanent home. Norman Mindrum is the executive director. The move was authorized by the Board of Trustees because of growth of staff and programs and in order to better establish the identity of the Foundation as a non-Government organization, according to Everett Bierman, information officer.

The first executive director was E. W. Aiton, who returned at the end of 1952 to Federal Extension Service as director of the Division of 4-H Club and YMW Programs. As an educational group, the foundation is carrying on current projects as follows: Research in the developmental needs of youth and training in human relations for extension workers, International Farm Youth Exchange—a program for promoting world peace, the national 4-H Club center, and an experimental project with young men and women's groups testing a new self-teaching method.

Dairying can meet change

THE GENERALLY stable dairy business is suffering from a decline in returns over the last 2 years, and cost of production has in some cases gone up. Prices received for milk and butterfat have weakened, due in part at least to an upsurge in production.

The resulting price-cost squeeze has reduced net incomes from the postwar peak by nearly a third in some areas. Even in those areas, however, net returns are still much higher than in 1937-41, both in dollars and in purchasing power. But costs are high and many dairy farmers are concerned about the future.

How can dairymen meet the change? Much will depend upon what happens to market outlets, according to R. P. Christensen and M. S. Parsons, ARS, writing for the *Agricultural Outlook*.

They point out that whereas the population of the country has increased about 15 percent since 1945, the consumption of dairy products has increased less than 4 percent. But largely as a result of a big decrease in the consumption of butter, not all of the milk produced in 1953 could be moved into consumption at prevailing prices. And such a surplus would disappear if each person would eat an additional half ounce of butter or drink an extra glass of milk a week.

Facing the cost-price squeeze, what is the dairyman to do? The authors suggest that some can profitably shift emphasis to other farm enterprises or to off-farm employment. The farms where such shifts are likely to be desirable in the future are those that have some disadvantage in dairying—like poor farm land, lack of opportunity to use power machinery, or a poor market in some areas.

Improved practices in breeding, feed production and feed utilization, work methods and building improvements to save labor, and good management may help. Adjustments to meet changing conditions on a dairy farm are usually long-time in nature and not desirable unless they have long-run as well as short-run possibilities for improving net incomes. They can be started now. The authors conclude that for most dairy farmers, dairying is still the best alternative, and farmers will find that their incomes will depend principally on the kind of dairying job they do.

Something to work on

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not been discovered.

—EMERSON.

Morse new CCC President

UNDER SECRETARY True D. Morse has been appointed President of the Commodity Credit Corporation by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson. He succeeds Howard H. Gordon. Mr. Morse has been a member of the CCC board for more than a year. He will handle the new assignment in addition to his duties as Under Secretary.

Reid heads Graduate School

T. ROY REID, Director of Personnel of the Department of Agriculture since 1941, became Director of the USDA Graduate School on March 1, succeeding Dr. P. V. Cardon, who resigned to become Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at Rome.

"The history of the Graduate School has shown its value in effective training and development of employees in the Department of Agriculture and throughout the Government," said Director Reid. "I have long had great interest in it, and I am glad to have a larger opportunity to foster the activities of the school."

Dr. Reid brings to the job much experience in agricultural and educational work. Born in Greenville County, S. C., he was graduated from Clemson College in 1912, earned an M. S. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1927, and was awarded an honorary D. Sc. degree by Clemson College in 1937. He taught in Kentucky and Arkansas. He became county agent in Drew County, Ark., in 1917, and served in the Agricultural Extension Service until 1935, for the last 12 years in charge of extension work in the State. From 1935 to 1941 he was Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration at Little Rock.

He became Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington in 1941. He is cochairman of a joint committee of the Land-Grant College Association and the Department for training for Government service. In 1952 he received the Department's Distinguished Service Award, and he has been selected by the Society for Personnel Administration to receive the Stockberger Award for outstanding personnel administration.

You can count on the Red Cross.
Let the Red Cross count on you;
Give generously now.

Broad economics research

IN A STATEMENT addressed primarily to agricultural economists, Frederick V. Waugh, Director of the Division of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Marketing Service, lists objectives of his division and requests suggestions for new research on the broader aspects of economic analysis. The agricultural production economics work of the division was formerly done in the old Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Lest USDA readers lose sight of other work formerly done in the old Bureau of Agricultural Economics (such as the crop and livestock reporting work, marketing and transportation, farm management, land economics and agricultural finance), it might be well to point out that this other important work is being carried on in two other divisions of AMS and in one of the divisions of the Agricultural Research Service. These divisions are the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS, headed by Sterling R. Newell; the Marketing Research Division, AMS, headed by Harry C. Trelogan; and the Farm and Land Management Research Division, ARS, headed by Sherman E. Johnson.

The Division of Agricultural Economics in the recently organized AMS comprises two branches: the Statistical and Historical Research Branch, headed by Karl Fox and Nathan Koffsky; and the Farm Population and Rural Life Branch, headed by Margaret Hagood and Louis J. Ducoff. Special responsibilities include development of outlook materials (subject to review by the Outlook Situation Board); estimates of gross cash farm income, and farm expenditures; technical services for the Secretary's Office and for other agencies of the Department and for Congress; the preparation of bulletins and reports summarizing results of research; and joint reports with State agricultural experiment stations, and other Government agencies; also basic research on major economic problems affecting farm people.

It is planned to make economic studies somewhat broader in the future. Besides participating in cooperative projects with land-grant colleges, the Division of Agricultural Economics supervises some Research and Marketing Act contacts.

Mountain lions can be shy

Grant County (N. Mex.) Commissioners temporarily suspended the \$25 head bounty on shooting mountain lions in the Gila Wilderness to keep a large hunting party from bankrupting the bounty fund. And the hunters returned without a single lion.

Thoughts in season

THINK OF March, think of wind. We may be awakened by "the wind that will be howling at all hours," but sometimes there will be little wind and a lot of calm sunshiny weather. If March is the windiest month, this is because, on the average, it is just a point or two more windy or has a few more windy days than other months, according to U. S. Weather Bureau records. Anyway, we know it is a month of transition from winter into summer. March is a companion to spring.

It is almost as risky to talk about March as it is to try to predict March weather. And March in Maine is a visitor quite different from March in Missouri, or Florida, or Arizona. Our conclusions about the month of Saint Patrick and Julius Caesar, income taxes, robins, daffodils, and plum blossoms should not be too airtight. It's no use to get as wild as a March hare worrying about it. For officially spring begins in March, and officially or otherwise, office, town, and country, we can be well prepared to go ahead. For one fine day we realize that this is truly the beginning of the growing season, the new year of crops. And the winds of March usually dry the ground for the plough, as well as shaking the bare branches awake, helping to coax the grass out of the earth, and sharpening the appetites of the world of animals.

One day the wind is a breeze gentle as the breath of a lamb; the next it may roar like a hungry lion, and rattle shutters, play pranks with barn doors, fences, and loads of hay, also collect hats, steal feed from open racks, or pile snow on the front porch. But even a strong breeze is only a breeze, and the roar (so natural science people say) is explained by compression and vibration of layers of moving air against the side of the house. Sometimes we thought it was worse than that.

For all those who like the out of doors, it is a pleasure again to meet March face to face, even though our necks may redden—which only goes to prove there is life in us yet.

Fewer man-caused forest fires

Despite droughts and extreme fire hazards the number of fires on the national forest did not increase last year. The number of man-caused fires showed a 14-percent decrease. The Forest Service attributes the decrease to the public's growing awareness of forest fire dangers, helped by fire-prevention campaigns conducted by State and Federal services, the Advertising Council, and the Keep Green programs conducted by forest industries and the States.

Training group named

A large proportion of the scientific and administrative personnel and the bulk of the technical workers in the Department come from the land-grant colleges. Administrative Assistant to the Secretary, Ralph S. Roberts, has announced a revised list of Department members of the Joint Committee on Training for Government Service. The members are: F. F. Elliott, AMS; C. O. Henderson, Pers.; Paul V. Kepner, Ext.; Richard E. McArdle FS; T. Roy Reid, Chairman, Pers.; R. M. Salter, ARS; Hazel K. Stiebeling, ARS; Clayton Whipple, FAS. The following are members designated by the Executive Committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities: Dean C. W. Beese, Purdue University; Dean H. M. Briggs, University of Wyoming; President John T. Caldwell, University of Arkansas; Dr. Lloyd M. Short, University of Minnesota; President Carl R. Woodward, University of Rhode Island; Chairman Dean Frances L. Zuill, University of Wisconsin. This committee was established in 1936 to make recommendations to the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Land-Grant Colleges regarding the type of training which students of Land-Grant Colleges who are looking toward a career in the Department of Agriculture should have. Committee members representing the colleges are designated by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

Potato crop ranks sixth

Potatoes are one of the most important field crops and normally rank about sixth in terms of farm income, exceeded only by cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco and soybeans. U. S. Standards are more widely used for potatoes than for any other fresh vegetable.

Capus wins on merits

The Cooperative Marketing Associations in New Jersey, Inc., have presented their 1954 meritorious service award to John P. Capus, of the Market News Branch of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, "in recognition of his outstanding service in the promotion of New Jersey fresh farm products." The presentation was made by William J. Lauderdale, president of the associations, at the Farmers' Week dinner at Trenton, January 27. Mr. Capus began his career with the USDA Market News Service in Atlanta, Ga., in 1934. He has been in the Philadelphia office since 1947.

Efferson to succeed Taggart

Director W. G. Taggart of the Louisiana Experiment Station is scheduled to retire July 1. He is widely known for organization of highly productive research programs relating to the production of sugar. He will be succeeded by Dr. J. Norman Efferson.

Poultry-slaughter reports

Agricultural Marketing Service has inaugurated a weekly report on poultry slaughtered. W. D. Termohlen, Director of the Poultry Division, AMS, conducted a survey of the poultry plants and a large majority offered to cooperate in sending in weekly data to the division.

John Bolish, top man

John Bolish, former president of the Dallas USDA Club, who transferred to Denver in September as Chief of the Western Area Personnel Management Division, CSS, has been elected president of the Denver USDA Club.

Anthony, McIntyre visit D. C.

DEAN ERNEST K. ANTHONY, who retired as Dean of the School of Agriculture at Michigan State College a year ago, and Elwood R. McIntyre, former editor of *USDA*, came to Washington in February and gathered facts and background material for a brochure on careers in agriculture. The National project in Agricultural Communications plans to publish this brochure. Dean Anthony also attended land-grant college committee meetings and the Conference for Agricultural Services in Foreign Areas. Since his retirement, Dean Anthony has participated in worldwide studies in the educational field, including visits to foreign agricultural colleges and advisory services to the agricultural college of Okinawa. He specialized in dairy studies at the University of Missouri, where he was graduated in 1912, and later taught at the State colleges in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, becoming head of the dairy department and later Dean at East Lansing.

Mr. McIntyre now lives in Madison, Wisconsin. He finds that comparatively little study has been done heretofore in the field of agricultural communications. He and Dean Anthony were able to obtain much valuable data from departmental sources. The NAT-PAC project is directed by Stanley Andrews, formerly of the Secretary's staff, later of Foreign Agricultural Service and the State Department.

Speeds FHA loans

The Farmers Home Administration has saved \$1,500,000 in yearly administrative costs by reorganization. Much of this saving results from combining the Denver, Dallas, St. Louis, and Montgomery, Ala., area finance offices and the Washington fiscal division into one office in St. Louis. Farmers will continue to receive the same type of loans as in the past, but the methods employed in making and administering these loans have been greatly simplified to save time and costs to borrowers. The FHA makes loans to farmers for the operation, purchase, and improvement of their farms, through a nationwide organization of State and county offices. Local farmer committees assist in the administration of the program.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 24, 1954

Peacetime farm policy

THE PEACETIME farm policy announced by President Eisenhower and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson places greater reliance on market prices as a guide to production, distribution, and consumption of farm products. At the same time, protection is provided against the excessive price changes that might occur in a completely free market, Don Paarlberg, Assistant to the Secretary, said in an address before the Minnesota State Spring Barrow Show, February 27.

"Basically," he added, "the recommended program expresses faith in the ability of farmers, if given the chance, to adjust their production in line with market opportunities. This program says, in effect, that there is merit in market prices as a method of guiding the production, distribution, and consumption of farm products. It recognizes that a system of market prices has its shortcomings, but that it is better to mend these shortcomings than to scrap the system."

The fact is that the level of price support can go up as well as down. It can go up from the present dollar level, it can go above 90 percent of parity, and the free market price can go above the present support level or any support level, if the supply-and-demand conditions warrant.

The dollar level of price support depends on the index of prices paid by farmers for articles used in living and in production—the so-called parity index. If this index rises, the dollar level of price support rises, other things being equal. Changes from the present dollar level of price support can be up as well as down.

Under the "sliding scale" plan for a schedule of price floors between 75 and 90 percent of parity there are three ways by which prices could rise above present levels: the parity index could rise, the

Secretary could use his discretionary authority to support prices above 90 percent of parity, and free market prices could rise above any level authorized by law and proclaimed by the Secretary.

Farmers adjust their production logically with respect to price. They increase production when price rises and decrease production when it falls. They make these changes in their own interest and in the national interest. (Any increase of production when prices are low is not a response to price as such, but to the price of a commodity as compared with prices of other commodities. Growing a low-priced crop that is more rewarding to the farmer than other crops in his area or on his land would be a case in point.) If farmers logically increase or decrease their production in response to price changes, a substantial degree of freedom in the use of agricultural resources is highly desirable.

Improving communications

"PUBLIC SERVICE and Communications" is the title of a 4-page leaflet currently being distributed to supervisors throughout the Department by the Office of Personnel. Oral and written communications are the primary channels through which the Department's business is conducted. Correspondence, telephone calls, and personal contacts are the types of communications most often used. Considerate handling of all these is essential to good public relations.

A Letter Appraisal Chart is included in the leaflet as a device for checking the effectiveness of letters. Suggestions of ways to speed up the handling of correspondence are also given.

Max Reid aide on personnel

Max P. Reid, of the Division of Employment, Office of Personnel, has been named personnel liaison staff assistant to Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts. He will aid in preparation of reports and documents on personnel matters.

Garden Club to meet

MRS. HERBERT B. Powell, wife of Brigadier General Powell, will address the USDA Garden Club March 31. Her topic will be "Bonkei Gardens" of Japan, where she spent some time. The Bonkei gardens, known to many members of the club, are artistic landscapes grown on trays or dishes. Mrs. Powell will demonstrate with samples. In the absence of the newly elected president of the club, Royal J. Haskell of Extension Service, Arthur W. True, ARA, the vice-president, will preside.

Garden clubs are busy now throughout the country, literally filled with new spring life. Dr. Haskell says they are especially good organizations for Government workers, not only for the satisfaction of thirst for knowledge of gardening, for the hours of diversion from routine work, and for health-giving returns to the individual gardener, but also for the help they can render to others. Many members of the USDA can perform excellent service as local garden leaders. There is no finer avocation, or hobby, than gardening.

Returns may not be confined to raising a few scallions and beans, but these alone are worth the effort. With more information, and a little friendly rivalry engendered in producing fine tomatoes, corn, potatoes, or the lesser "garden sass," the prowess of the individual may be proved, and the family diet enriched. Nor should we forget the influence of flowers and shrubs in improving the surroundings of the home. The USDA Garden Club, and garden clubs over the country generally, are back of these things all the way.

Cotton acreage extension

New Public Law 290, to extend acreage of cotton, and durum wheat, was signed by the President January 30. Action was taken to alleviate the hardship on many cotton farms that would result from severe production adjustments required under existing legislation. Besides increasing the national acreage allotment the new law provides for modification of the method of apportionment of the allotment to farms. The law also permits the use of section 32 funds for assisting the potato industry, but provides no basis for overproduction of potatoes.

Variety the sauce of life?

Limiting production to only a few varieties of apples is a weakness of many large orchards, R. Samuel Dillon, orchardist of Hancock, Md., told the fruit growers of Connecticut last month. He said that growing a number of different varieties would extend the season for fruit and increase the profits. He also urged growers to consider processing more of their fruit. Canned applesauce seems to offer a larger market. Some of the big growers may be taking a leaf from the old family orchard of many varieties.

Fruit supply in balance

THE 1953 crop of deciduous fruits in the United States was pretty well in balance with consumer demand. However, supplies of fresh fruit to be marketed in the first half of 1954 are a little larger than they were a year earlier because of increased citrus production. Demand for citrus for processing is expected to continue strong, and consumer demand for fresh and processed fruits should hold up well, according to the USDA's Fruit Situation. Export-payment programs will help move oranges, grapefruit, winter pears, and raisins.

Utilization of the 1953-54 orange crop has been considerably heavier through February this season than last. In Florida the increased volume was made into frozen concentrate, and a local new high output is in prospect. Local market prices in Florida for oranges for fresh market shipment and for concentration were somewhat lower in late February 1954 than February 1953.

In California, the orange crop is about one-fifth smaller than a year ago and remaining supplies are likewise smaller. Auction prices in late February were considerably higher than in February 1953, and probably will continue higher.

Disposition of Florida grapefruit also has been heavier so far this season than last, and with remaining supplies heavier, prices probably will continue under those of the first half of 1953.

An export-payment program for 1953-54 crop oranges was announced by the Department of Agriculture on October 31, 1953. The program became effective for processed oranges then and for fresh oranges on November 15. The rate of payment for fresh oranges is \$1 per box. Exports of fresh oranges during November 1952-October 1953, including those moved under the 1952-53 export-payment program, totaled nearly 9.6 million boxes, 25 percent more than in 1951-52. About 5.2 million boxes of the 1952-53 exports went to Canada, an increase of 10 percent over 1951-52. Total exports of fresh and processed oranges on a fresh equivalent basis amounted to nearly 13 million boxes in 1952-53, or about 10 percent of the crop.

Stocks of apples in cold storage February 1 were about the same as last year, but 18 percent under the 5-year average. Prices were relatively high. Cold-storage holdings of winter pears were about 1,200,000 bushels February 1, about a third more than a year before, and the prices were lower. Some were bought by

the Department for nonprofit school-lunch programs, and the current export-payment continues to support the market. Supplies of dried fruits are expected to be smaller than last winter, while supplies of canned fruit and commercially frozen fruits and fruit juices are larger. Per capita consumption of frozen fruits and fruit juices in 1953 (at 6.3 pounds, product weight) was about the same as in 1952.

Foresters elect Demmon

Elwood L. Demmon, director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, N. C., was recently named president of the Society of American Foresters. Forest Service studies of fire control and water management, including hydrological studies at the Coweeta laboratory are under his direction. Foresters from all over the world visit the station and the laboratories in the southeastern forests.

Christie named nematologist

J. R. Christie, formerly of Plant Industry (ARS) has been named nematologist of the Department of Nematology, Florida Experiment Station, Gainesville.

FAO studies surplus foods

The FAO working party consisting of representatives from eight member governments wrestled in March with the problem of getting increasing supplies of surplus agricultural commodities into areas where they are needed. How to attain this objective without harming existing trade patterns is part of the same problem. Francis A. Linville, of State Department, chairman, and G. H. Janton, of France, and G. R. Kamat, of India, are on the steering committee. The countries participating were Argentina, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States. The U. S. Department of Agriculture representatives are: Gustave Burmeister, FSA; John H. Dean, CSS; Roy W. Lennartson, AMS; Preston Richards, CSS; Don Paariberg, Assistant to the Secretary; and Gerald E. Tichenor, FAS. Mr. Linville represents the State Department, and George A. Sallee, Department of Commerce.

M. A. Bell dies in Montana

Assistant Director M. A. Bell, of the Montana Experiment Station, died February 22. He had served the North Montana Branch at Havre, and at Bozeman since 1939, except the period 1946-49, when he was Superintendent of the USDA Southern Great Plains Station at Woodward, Okla.

Forest Service personnel

H. Dean Cochran recently transferred from his job as head of the Division of Personnel Management to become Regional Forester of Region Nine, with headquarters at Milwaukee, Wis. Bernard Anderson of the Portland, Oreg., regional office succeeds him. Walt Dutton, head of the Division of Range Management, retired in January after more than 40 years in the Service. He will go to East Africa to work on range problems for the British Government.

How did we say it?

Do we make a good impression over the phone? It may be the caller's only contact with the Department. And the impression that one employee makes over the telephone can become the caller's total impression of the whole Department.

Need for alerting on pests

INCREASING RESISTANCE of insect pests of vegetables and fruits to some of the newer insecticides is noted by D. E. Greenwood, writing for the Virginia Truck Experiment Station at Norfolk, who suggests that the grower needs more information to help in his warfare on pests. He says:

"We believe growers should be alerted to these conditions and that they should be more observing than ever in drawing conclusions with regard to the degree of control obtained. The fundamentals of insect control still hold; applications must be thorough, materials must be properly selected, and every effort should be made to combat any particular pest at the proper time. Full grown worms are generally more difficult to kill than those partially grown. Constant observation is necessary on any infested crop to determine the most effective time to treat. It is possible to spray or dust too early just as it is possible to spray or dust too late, although this is not a common mistake. It should be pointed out that, although resistance has to start somewhere, it is not likely that it will persist in starting on just one farm. When such a condition prevails, it would be advisable for the grower to look more closely into the choice of the material and the time of its application."

Agriculturist Emeritus

SEVERAL HUNDRED members of the Department attended the reception in honor of Dr. T. Roy Reid February 26, on the occasion of his leaving the position of Director of Personnel and becoming Director of the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Reid received the rare honorary title of "Agriculturist Emeritus." The certificate was presented by Under Secretary True D. Morse and Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts, on behalf of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. Additional honors were received from the various employee organizations and from the Welfare Association.

H. C. Starnes, head of the personnel office of Rural Electrification Administration, and chairman of the Personnel Advisory Committee, announced that letters from friends of Dr. Reid would be bound and presented to him at a later date. These letters may be mailed in care of S. B. Herrell, Office of Personnel. Instruction: Use bond paper, 8 x 10½ inches left margin 1½ inches; write on one side of paper. Make it informal.

OPEDA banquet in April

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS are being made for celebration of the 25th anniversary of OPEDA. Executive Officer Walt L. Dutton and the Council of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture announce that the quarterly magazine will come out with a special anniversary number highlighting the history and achievements of the employee association. It will present for the first time the new emblem of OPEDA.

The anniversary program will culminate with a banquet to be held in the fourth-wing dining room of the Department. Invitations have been sent to the members of the original permanent committee to participate. The names of the speakers will be announced. All members past and present, including retirees, and out-of-town members who will be in Washington, are expected to attend.

The OPEDA seal has been designed by Leon F. Kneipp, former executive officer, and Elmo White of Illustrations, Office of Information.

USDA Clubs active in 1954

BUSHROD ALLIN, chairman of the Outlook and Situation Board, Agricultural Marketing Service, spoke at the January meeting of the Harrisburg, Pa., USDA Club. H. Dean Cochran, recently appointed regional forester of Region Nine, Forest Service, addressed the meeting of the Milwaukee USDA Club.

The USDA Club Exchange, issued by the Office of Personnel, reported briefly on club meetings at Dallas, Seattle, Milwaukee, Boston, Portland, Oreg., Denver, Harrisburg, Fresno, Chicago, Columbus, Kansas City, Lincoln, Richmond, and elsewhere. Favorite topics at the early meetings in 1954 included Department changes and new activities of local units, merit awards, and motion picture films. Lectures and discussions dealt also with locally produced commodities, school lunch programs, watersheds, farm game projects, service regulations and activities, cooperative experimental work, and travelogs illustrated by slides.

Nothing simple in farming

"ROADSIDE TEACHERS," an informative article by Dr. Gladys Gallup and Mrs. Amy G. Cowing, was featured by the magazine Adult Leadership in February. The article describes the educational activities of the Agricultural

Extension Service, carried on locally, as well as in print and over the air by radio and television. Individual, group, and mass are reached in different ways. Methods are constantly improved in the light of research on effectiveness of varied programs. Discussions were found more helpful than lectures, but lectures supplemented by filmstrips were most effective. Neighbor-to-neighbor visiting and observing things along the road showed many advantages, also the disadvantage of imitation without full study of why a crop succeeds on one farm and may not on another. Sometimes the fault is in poor soil, but it can be in lack of skill on the part of the imitator. One of the county agent's jobs is to put good demonstrations before the people and let them know just why a practice is successful. Nothing simple about rural education.

Chew looks at U. S. agriculture

"Agriculture at the Crossroads" is the title of a new booklet by Arthur P. Chew, who retired from USDA in 1950. It is a reprint of series of articles he wrote for recent numbers of the Rural New Yorker. Mr. Chew sees much promise in a good farm program. The subtitles of the booklet are: The Roads Thus Far, Signs Along the Way, As To Politics and Pressure, The Export Need and Dilemma, and Choosing the Free and Open Road. Besides printing the booklet, the Rural New Yorker called attention to it in an editorial, " * * * The author's purpose in writing this article—and our purpose in publishing it—is to encourage some serious thinking on the problems affecting agriculture * * * "

SCS names conservationists

Ray Walker, former assistant regional director, SCS, of Albuquerque, N. Mex. has been named State conservationist in Oklahoma, D. A. Williams, administrator of Soil Conservation Service announces. James W. Sargent, former assistant regional director at Spartanburg, S. C., will go to Puerto Rico as director in the Caribbean area. The administrator also announces the appointment of Harry M. Chambers as deputy State conservationist of Oklahoma, and reappointment of Truman C. Anderson to head SCS work in Montana, Richard S. Snyder in Delaware, and reassignment of Theodore C. Green, former director in the Caribbean area, to assistant State conservationist in Mississippi. (If you wish to complete the list of State conservationists, write to Office of Information, USDA, for press releases 3043-53 and 2991-53.)

Holliday joins FHA

Appointment of Malcolm H. Holliday, Jr., of Jackson, Ky., a newspaper publisher, as assistant to the administrator of the Farmers Home Administrator, was announced March 1 by Administrator R. B. McLeaish. Mr. Holliday will advise the Administrator on policy matters and will be responsible for the activities of the service divisions in the national office.

Joins 7-State dairy project

The Nevada station has recently added Dr. W. G. Black to the staff, to be in charge of a project dealing in sterility of dairy cattle. This work will be part of a regional research program in which seven States and ARS units of USDA are cooperating.

Rural adult learning

DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture personnel participated in writing the new book, Rural Social Systems and Adult Education, which is a comprehensive review of the opportunities for adult learning available to rural people. This book was sponsored by The Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and The Fund for Adult Education established by The Ford Foundation.

The senior author, C. P. Loomis, was long an economist in the Department. Wilson Longmore was his assistant in this project and did much of the research in Washington and elsewhere. He is now in Bogota, Colombia, on an FOA rural housing and education program. Joseph Matthews wrote the chapter on the work of the Cooperative Extension Service. Carl C. Taylor, formerly of BAE, now of FOA, and Wayne Rohwer, formerly of Michigan State College, now extension rural sociologist at the University of Maryland, wrote chapters on farm management. The book contains much authoritative information on agriculture in the United States.

Three areas of special interest treated are international understanding for world peace, understanding and strengthening of the economic order, and the understanding of government by the people, its functions and structure. The book, written under the guidance of a planning committee, is like a documentary symposium, though well knit into a unity. Each author describes the nature and functions of the opportunities for individual learning provided by a particular agency. The formally organized programs of the public schools, cooperative extension, university extension, libraries, and other public agencies are well presented, and an attempt is made to appraise the contribution of the general farm organizations, churches, professional and civic groups, and mass communication media, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, and television. The book provides a useful reference tool for those interested in the welfare of rural people and the Nation. (Published by Michigan State College Press.)

"Safety is no accident"

The USDA Safety Council reports that the death and injury toll at country road crossings remains very high. It is still too high in house cleaning, trash burning, and handling farm animals and machinery. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and a moment of precaution is worth more than days of suffering. Nobody wants to be accident-prone; everyone should give a thought to safety.

Milk to improve diet

FOR THE sake of physical strength of the Nation, consumption of milk and dairy products must continue to grow. The use of milk must be pushed into areas where diets are deficient. This is a vital part of the Department's program.

The price of milk for manufacture and butterfat sold by farmers will be supported at 75 percent of parity, Secretary Ezra Taft Benson announced February 15. This rate will apply during the year beginning April 1. The decision to apply the lower legal rate was made after consultation with farm, dairy, and congressional leaders.

Commodity Credit Corporation holdings of butter, cheese, and nonfat dry milk solids were the equivalent of 1.44 billion pounds of whole milk when the 90-percent of parity support price was announced a year ago. These stocks were about 1.2 percent of the production for 1953-54. But favorable winter weather, current demand for dairy products, and the drop in beef prices following drouth in southwestern areas were factors that caused northern dairymen to keep more cows off the beef market, with the result that milk production for the 1953-54 period is expected to increase by 5 billion pounds. As a further consequence, the CCC holdings have grown to 8 billion pounds, equal to 6 percent of the year's production.

Secretary Benson said that the immediate problems of the dairy industry should be attacked through increased consumption of dairy products, and that the Department will continue to emphasize its programs to assist the dairy industry in its current campaign to increase the sale of dairy products. Milk comes nearest to being the perfect food. If full dietary needs are met, there would be no surplus of milk and dairy products. The industry has already shown by special campaigns in test areas that consumption can be increased.

New member of training group

John Caldwell, president of the University of Arkansas, has been appointed by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities to replace Vice President Fred Smith (retired) of the University of Tennessee, on the Joint Land-Grant College Department Committee on Training for Government Service.

Dr. Black gets Golden Egg

The poultry farmers of New Jersey have presented to Dr. James J. Black, for nearly 30 years the poultry pathologist in charge of the Vineland pathology laboratory of the New Jersey Experiment Station, their highest honor, the Golden Egg Award.

Du Mond joins research group

C. Chester du Mond, of Albany, N. Y., has been appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to the 11-man Agricultural Research Policy Committee. Mr. Du Mond succeeds Anson A. Brock, of Sacramento, Calif. The Committee, under title III of the Research and Marketing Act, advises the Secretary on research and service work and assists in obtaining the cooperation of producers, farm organizations, industry groups, and Federal and State agencies in carrying out such work.

Co-op insect surveys

Timely information about impending insect outbreaks and the discovery of new or dangerous insect pests, gathered by full-time State insect survey supervisors, should eventually bring the farmers more effective pest control. This pest-reporting service is sponsored jointly by the States and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is already in effect in Missouri, Maryland, Texas, Arizona, Utah, Louisiana, and Florida. The Plant Pest Control Branch, ARS, compiles the information on observations in each State in a new weekly publication, "The Cooperative Economic Insect Report."

Honor to Cappleman

Lester Cappleman, Texas State Director of Farmers' Home Administration, received the *Progressive Farmer's* award as the "1953 Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture." Special merit is seen in his work of getting FHA borrowers to beat the average yield of cotton for the State on land that is often below average in going values.

G. A. Cumings, engineer, dies

Glenn A. Cumings, 59, a member of USDA's Agricultural Engineering staff for the past 27 years, died suddenly February 6, 1954, at his home in University Park, Md. Mr. Cumings, a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, was born on a farm near Wayland, Iowa, and obtained a B. S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Iowa State College in 1917. He was recently appointed to the Executive Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For the past several years Mr. Cumings engaged in experimental research in the design and development of machinery for the distribution and metering of fertilizers. Much of his work in this field was carried on at USDA's old Arlington, Va., experimental station, and since 1943 at the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md. He served in the Navy in World War I. In 1918 he was an instructor in farm machinery at the University of Wisconsin, and became Associate Professor of Farm Mechanics at Colorado State Agricultural College. He joined the USDA engineering staff in 1927.

Forest heads dairy work

Herbert L. Forest has assumed his duties as acting director of the Dairy Branch, formerly with PMA. He is a native of Massachusetts, and after graduation from Massachusetts State College he did graduate work at Harvard University. Later he served with USDA as economic analyst and economist in the Dairy and Poultry Branch, and in the Department's lend-lease and foreign requirements work, also as assistant deputy director of civilian activities, Office of Marketing Services. He was deputy director of the Dairy Branch since 1946.

Pictures irrigation

How to get the most out of irrigation water by the contour-furrow method is graphically shown in Leaflet 342, Contour Furrow Irrigation. This pictorial-style leaflet has won wide attention. If you have not seen it, write Office of Information, USDA.

Thoughts in season

PLANT A tree. Our earliest recollections may center in the cutting down of a tree or the planting of one. Country, town, or first reader, the scene remains in mind and the urge to plant never dies. Even in retirement many a man will plant new trees to delight him and perhaps outlive him. You may count time by the trees. The spreading chestnut, if you can remember it, is certainly gone. The elm you knew may have visibly lost its vigor and the old oak have become gnarled and stagheaded, with broken branches lodged on high and threatening to become "widow makers." An apple tree snag may mark the end of the vanished orchard.

City trees change too. "Trees along the street are old trees, used to living with people," wrote Benet. The cathedral-aisled avenue soon or late may turn into a deadfall trap for motorists. It is necessary to start new trees. The indigenous woods, like hope, springs eternal where given the chance. Cut down a small woodlot or fence-row growth, return in 30 years, and the growing coppice will in many localities have reproduced the original scene with surprising fidelity. Yet much land has to be replanted to forest.

Sometimes a "developer" rips every tree from the ground. A tree is only a tree, but if it were capable of revenge, it would fall on him. There must be a reason for a man to change a charming hillside wood into an angular agglomeration of brick and plaster. Some home-seekers, it has been said, prefer to buy bare ground and use their imagination and funds in landscaping it. There is a bright side though; these people have a yen for planting.

Tree lore enriches American Literature. Henry Van Dyke, who liked to take the long view, wrote: "He that planteth a tree * * * Faces he hath not seen shall bless him."

Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used until they are seasoned.

—O. W. HOLMES.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 7, 1954

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Getting acquainted

THE FIRST "get acquainted" meeting of technical workers in Livestock Research was held at the Plant Industry auditorium, at Beltsville, Md., March 12. More than 160 people attended. Assistant Director H. C. McPhee presided at the meeting and Dr. B. T. Simms, Chief of the Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, Dr. T. C. Byerly, Chief of the Animal and Poultry Husbandry Research Branch, and Dr. R. E. Hodgson, Chief of the Dairy Husbandry Research Branch, personally introduced each member of his group.

Administrator Byron T. Shaw of Agricultural Research Service spoke briefly on reorganization of the Department, and the progress of integration of all research services under ARS. The present reorganization is a culmination of years of study by agricultural and economics experts within and outside the Department, and it is by far the greatest overhauling and reconstruction carried out since the Department was formed. Dr. Shaw praised the personnel for the workmanship and loyalty shown in bringing Livestock Research to its present high state of efficiency.

Director Reed, who heads all livestock research formerly in the Bureaus of Animal Industry and Dairy Industry, called attention to the valuable work carried on in the Beltsville laboratories and at field locations all over the United States. Current investigations are proving of high value to the livestock, dairy, and poultry farmers at a time of general adjustments in these industries. Production of meat, milk, poultry and eggs, wool, and many other animal products are studied in regional as well as central laboratories. Animal disease stations are at work from coast to coast and in foreign countries and the scientists under the new setup are continuing their work with confidence and enthusiasm.

Sets a new direction

THE PRESIDENT'S program for agriculture recommended to the Congress on January 11 set a new direction for Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson stated before the House Committee on Agriculture, March 10. The new program calls for building for better, steadier farm income by strengthening the farmer's freedom and permitting him to accept responsibility, in which the institution of American agriculture has so long centered its pride and hope. The needs of agriculture, the interest of the consumer, and those of the Nation are all considered, and the new program is to be undertaken gradually and with due regard to the interdependence of rural and urban America.

A start has been made in presenting the major proposals for shifting the bases of parity, planning for the disposal of the burden of surpluses, and providing so far as possible for orderly adjustment of price supports under the existing laws. Secretary Benson pointed out that "the present high state of efficiency on American farms is not because of price supports, but largely because, historically, farmers have had a substantial degree of freedom in the management of their farms, and because the fruits of research and education have been made available to them." With support prices designed to broaden markets, with the level of stocks better adjusted to needs, and excess reserves insulated from the market, it will be more feasible to make the specified level of price supports effective to the farmers.

He also attributed the present large surpluses of some of the principal farm commodities to high-level supports which have reacted to reduce our exports of wheat and other grains. The rigid supports have tended to substitute Government for private trade in the merchandising of farm products. Be-

sides, the Government has lost \$116.1 million during the first half of the current fiscal year, and the rate of loss may be higher in the second.

Income is the result of production times price, not price alone. During the past 40 years farm prices have fallen 8 percent relative to nonfarm prices, while per capita net farm income has increased 11 percent relative to per capita incomes of nonfarmers. Farmers achieved their income position by higher efficiency and turning out greater volume, and in spite of a relative decline in prices.

In answer to questions that have been raised, Secretary Benson said in reply that, under present proposals, support prices could move up as well as down, and that the level of farm prices depends far more on general economic conditions than on the level of price supports. He quoted the President on the new farm program: "Year in and year out it will provide the best prospects for the stability and growth of farm income." Lower support prices would not cause farmers to increase their production. Usually the farmer increases production because of higher, not lower, prices.

Secretary Benson said that we should try to maintain farm income through methods that encourage efficient production and move farm products into use rather than into Government storage. The Department is carrying out a five-point program, following the President's major proposals—through set-asides, encouragement of exports, adjusting price supports where possible, modernizing the parity basis, and diverting acres into crops and rotations that will advance soil conservation and long-term efficiency.

Much is to be gained in the future by shifting from some commodities in abundant supply to others like feed, livestock, and poultry. There is opportunity in gradually increasing the amount of meat in the American diet. During the past half century we have improved our level of living as measured by housing, education, transportation, and clothing. But we have not raised our level as measured by per capita consumption of red meat.

Lowering the support of dairy products was judged to be to the best interest of the dairy industry and of agriculture generally. Utmost efforts are being made to move stored stocks. Basic crops are storable and are subject to production control; dairy products are perishable and not subject to such controls.

(Turn to page 2, col. 2)

Ancients "not so bad"

WE ARE living on the products of an era of an agricultural revolution far older than the "industrial revolution" that began only about 2 centuries ago, concludes Dr. Jack R. Harlan, USDA geneticist doing grass-breeding in cooperation with the Oklahoma A. & M. The agricultural changes have been more lasting, stretching from the dim past, and at a rapid pace entering the future. We are improving the quality, but the staples themselves came down to us from the Stone Age.

Dr. Harlan, addressing the college chapter of Sigma XI, quoted V. Gordon Child's new book, *New Light on the Most Ancient Past*, that "the agricultural revolution occurred when man passed from a food-gathering society to a food-growing society," domesticating crops and improving them, thereby releasing a good percentage of the population for other pursuits. The early Old World farmers domesticated wheat, barley, rice, sorghum, sugarcane, beans, millet, manioc, sweetpotato, banana plantain, date, and coconut. The American Indians built civilizations around the culture of corn. In their farm work, the beginners in all lands had to develop implements like spades, hoes, and digging sticks, also primitive methods of irrigation.

"Had there been an experiment station with an extension service in those days, the agricultural revolution might have been hastened by a thousand years," Dr. Harlan says.

Grain storage program

THE FARM grain storage facility and equipment loans programs, which have been extended for another year, through June 30, 1955, were explained by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson at the national grain storage conference at Omaha, Nebraska, March 19. Representatives of Federal, State, and grain-trade organizations attended.

All farm owners and farm operators and producer partnerships are eligible to participate in the programs. Applications for loans may be made at the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office. Loans may be obtained on storage for wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, soybeans, grain sorghums, dry edible beans, rice, peanuts, cottonseed, flaxseed, and winter cover crop seeds. Farmers can borrow up to 80 percent of the cost of new storage, at 4 percent per year. Loans may be paid

off over a 4-year period. Storage equipment is eligible for a 75-percent loan. Other measures include a resealing program for seven 1953 crops, and encouragement of additional commercial storage construction, through a "guaranteed occupancy" plan. It is planned to anticipate expected need for heavy storage facilities for grain this coming harvest season.

Supervisor responsibility

THE RESPONSIBILITIES of supervisors in Government differ from those in industry. There are, however, basic similarities applicable to supervisors in any type of enterprise whether public or private. These similarities arise from the fact that productive results must be accomplished through people. Basic principles of management and of leadership apply equally well to supervisors in either Government or industry, says the Civil Service Employee Bulletin.

Since our work in the public service is affected by many factors which do not apply in the same degree to industry, we might well consider the basic idea of responsibility in our Government. From our own thoughts concerning the concept of citizen responsibility in our Government may come a clarification of our dual responsibilities as citizens and as public servants.

The citizen can never wholly divest himself of his basic individual responsibility for his Government. The supervisor has a responsibility for upholding our American concept of the dignity and worth of the individual.

Sets a new direction

(Continued from page 1)

Under rigid price supports gross farm income is not stabilized, since price is not permitted to compensate for changes in volume. Price should not be the sole objective, for income is more relevant than price. Under flexible price supports, supply and price fluctuate inversely, tending to stabilize gross farm income.

It will take time for the recommended new farm program to make much headway. Even when the 1955 crop is harvested the changes will be slight, and modernized parity will not begin for the basic commodities until January 1956.

He proved his point

Just to prove that feed would make cattle fat in Texas, Calvin Hughes, of Austin, one of the oldest of the Travis County cattlemen, once tied a string of heavyweight steers on Congress Avenue in Austin. (From Dallas USDA Club News.)

Dr. Marlatt, entomologist, dies

Dr. Charles L. Marlatt, former chief of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and a leading proponent of the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, died in Washington, March 3. He attended Kansas State College, joined the Department of Agriculture in 1914, and retired in 1933.

Dr. Fromme at regional meet

Dr. Fred D. Fromme, Office of Experiment Stations, ARS, represented OES at the winter meeting of the western group of experiment station directors association at Berkeley, California. The directors discussed the regional research program for fiscal 1955.

What to do about the weather

State agricultural experiment stations are planning special studies of weather problems, including the possibility and practicability of cloud seeding as a means of producing more rain in dry seasons. Dr. F. W. Reichelderfer, Chief of the Weather Bureau, Department of Commerce, and Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, of Agriculture, are among the members of the advisory committee on weather modification or control. L. W. Douglas is establishing a cloud physics laboratory at the University of Arizona.

Irrigation in Georgia

In experiments in Georgia by the Agricultural Research Service and the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, irrigation during dry spells substantially increased crop production and livestock feed. Irrigated corn in the Georgia tests since 1946 has increased production an average of 25 bushels per acre. Yield of cotton was also increased. Vegetable crops showed even greater gains. Pasture irrigation for 4 years added an average of 92 days to the summer grazing period and increased per acre gains of half-grown heifers by 80 pounds over similar animals on nonirrigated grassland.

Effective personnel policy

A NEW illustrated booklet, *Effective Personnel Policy*, prepared in the Office of Personnel, and carrying a foreword by Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts, is off the press. The personnel program of the Department is depicted in capsule form, in 35 brief sections, each illustrated with an instructive drawing or chart. The booklet is designed primarily to serve as a guide for those who design programs intended to inform employees, supervisors, or others about the personnel program, of which Mr. Roberts writes:

"As the Department grew, orderly personnel processes developed and we have today a program in which everyone shares the responsibility for public service. Its success depends on teamwork—the cooperation of the administrator, the supervisor, and the employee—and the sincerity of our fellowship one with another."

A limited issue has been printed. The booklets will be distributed on a prorated basis after receipt of agency request advising how many can be used effectively in each organization.

Awards committees

The Department's eighth annual Honor Awards Ceremony will be held at 10:30 a. m. on Tuesday, May 18, at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds. Those selected for honors and those who will be given recognition for 40 years of service, will come from throughout the Department. Assistant Administrative Secretary Ralph S. Roberts, announces the committees which are considering the nominations made for Distinguished Service and Superior Service Awards this year. These committees review the agency nominations.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE: Dr. Allen V. Astin, Director, National Bureau of Standards; George M. Moore, Commissioner, Civil Service Commission; Elmer B. Staats, Executive Officer, Operations Coordinating Board; J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Guido E. Hilbert, Director, Utilization Research, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture; Director of Personnel, Department of Agriculture.

SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE: Donald E. Clark, Regional Forester, Denver, Colorado; Paul V. Kepner, Deputy Director, Federal Extension Service; Charles S. Laidlaw, Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; Sterling R. Newell, Director, Agricultural Estimates Division, Agricultural Marketing Service; Dr. Harry C. Trelogan, Director, Marketing Research Division, Agricultural Marketing Service; Berley Winton, Director, Regional Poultry Research Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan; Director of Personnel, Department of Agriculture.

Fats and oils futures

LIMITS ON speculative trading and positions in cottonseed oil, soybean oil, and lard futures were suspended by the Commodity Exchange Commission January 22. These limits had been in effect since last April 1. The limits, with amendments, may be reinstated hereafter on 30 days' notice by the Commission.

The Commission's orders provide exemptions from the limits for bona fide cross-hedging in these three products. Amendments are designed to meet problems peculiar to hedging usage in the fats and oils industry. The Secretary of Agriculture, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Commerce, constitute the Commission. The orders of the Commission are enforced by the Commodity Exchange Authority, USDA.

Dust storm relief

A **FUND** of \$2,500,000 was earmarked by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson March 11 for assistance in dust-storm areas of Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, to be

made available immediately to local governmental units on a reimbursable basis. The amount is part of a \$10,000,-000 allocation from disaster funds by the President under Public Law 875. County governments, wind erosion districts, and soil conservation districts are included in the local units to have charge of distribution, and the amounts will depend on whether there are seasonable rains. Procedure for assistance will depend on State laws. Some of the farmers in the duststorm areas are receiving assistance through the emergency drought feed program, under which they may receive Government-owned corn and wheat at below market cost, also emergency loans from Farmers Home Administration. Local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees may be consulted on cost-sharing.

Kaplan talks on retirement

Government employees need have no apprehension that the Committee on Retirement Policy for Federal Personnel, Commonly known as the Kaplan Committee, will do anything to the detriment of their retirement benefits, H. Elliott Kaplan, chairman of the committee, assured Department personnel officers at their monthly luncheon, March 19. He indicated that the committee will "propose that nothing be taken away from the existing pension systems, public or private, or from social security." He added that the individual employee's contribution would not be raised, though the Government's contribution might be left subject to some adjustments: a very slight adjustment upward in the Government's contribution to retirement funds could be a good investment as an incentive to employees.

The committee will make its report to Congress in June, following studies that have lasted for many months, in which time public and private pension systems by the thousand have been examined. The committee plans to present plans to Congress looking to revision and simplification of systems now in operation. Another aim discussed by the speaker was that of coordinating the present retirement system for civil servants, and the Social Security system, without taking anything from either.

Strother B. Herrell, Assistant Director of the Office of Personnel, presided at the luncheon.

North Dakotans repay loans

NINETY-SEVEN percent of the 2,600 North Dakota farmers who obtained emergency loans from Farmers Home Administration in fiscal 1953 have now repaid in full, State Director J. R. McClung reported to Administrator E. B. McLeish. The loans averaged a little more than \$780, and were made possible when the entire State was designated by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson as eligible to obtain emergency loans because of adverse weather conditions. They are in addition to the agency's regular production, water facilities, farm ownership,

and special livestock loans, and enable farmers, hard hit by emergency conditions to continue their operations. McClung said the good record was partly due to the fact that FHA insisted on the borrowers taking crop insurance. The entire State was redesignated for emergency loans for the current year because of losses from drought, rust, and root rot.

OPEDA banquet April 23

The OPEDA banquet in commemoration of the founding of the Organization 25 years ago will be held at the USDA cafeteria in the fourth wing, April 23. Congressman Clifford Hope of Kansas will be the speaker. All past and present members of OPEDA have been invited to attend. Reservations should be sent in to Charles E. Burkhead (AMS) room 2727 South Building, USDA.

Prayer meetings

A **NUMBER** of employees of the Department are participating in weekly prayer meetings during the Lenten season. One of the groups is led by Miss Marguerite Bailey, a 1952 graduate of Trinity College. The first gathering was a small one at noon on Friday in a cafeteria room. The next, on March 12 at the auditorium, attracted 200 people. The meetings may continue beyond the Lenten season. Another group, conducted by Charlton E. Myers has for some months held a morning meeting from 8:30 to 8:50 on Wednesday in a conference room on the Third floor of the South Building. This one is an interdenominational group. Both groups invite people of all faiths. The meetings are not held on government time.

REA-industry meet

AN REA-sponsored conference in Chicago on March 11-12 to plan an intensive campaign for wider and more effective use of electricity on farms, was attended by more than 200 representatives of groups interested in the rural electrification program. These groups included the electric equipment industry, commercial power companies, and rural electric cooperatives.

Ancher Nelsen, REA Administrator, and other speakers pointed out that power suppliers (both commercial and cooperative) and equipment manufacturers have a mutual interest in greater use of electric power. Modern American farmers have long since learned that electricity is a vital force in meeting labor and production problems. They welcome ideas and suggestions about expanding its use.

Plans are now being made to supply manufacturers with details on potential market areas, and for State and local campaigns featuring power-use information. A steering committee representing all groups plans a second meeting in Chicago during the last week in April. Fred Strong, Deputy Administrator of REA, is chairman of this committee.

Thoughts in season

WALKING TO WORK can be a true economy nowadays and pay dividends in office efficiency. This investment is especially offered to the early riser. The man who gets up late and sprints into streets on the yellow lights, heel-and-toes it down inclines, and tries to pass long-legged field chaps hurrying uphill misses some of the benefits. Still, the strains on his chest and calves may remind him to send in that insurance check.

Walk if you wish, or if you must, but not too far and too fast. "Walk . . . and you may believe again in the freshness of life," said Maeterlinck.

To get the most out of a mile, allow yourself an extra 10 minutes, keep the smokes in your pocket, speak pleasantly to the old newsboy, and try a hearty "Good morning" on at least one comparative stranger. You can lift your nostrils to the breeze, and just stroll. Or, if you believe a brisk striding makes for better exercise, march on eager to arrive.

"Walk straight and let your mind ramble a bit". Nothing proves better the worth of walking than that it somehow encourages you to do a little independent thinking. Maybe it's the ozone, more likely the oxygen in the circulation to the brain. You seem to catch new ideas right out of the air. Treasure these morning ideas, they may represent the best achievement of the whole day.

The walker's senses seldom need prodding; a special awareness, with time to take in many things, comes over him. Hence the truism: If you want to really know a piece of property, walk over it. Look around. Observe, lest one day you wake to sudden realization that the town or countryside has outgrown you. The alert eye checks on the vegetative march of the season, or the feeding habits of starlings. You may notice a new fence or landscaping that stirs you to improve your own yard.

If you are walking to or waiting for a bus, keep one eye on the road while you contemplate the propositions of Euclid or the sayings of Archibald Spooner. The bus driver may be in a thoughtful mood too and pass you by.

New list of station workers

The Department has issued the new List of Workers in Subjects Pertaining to Agriculture in Land-Grant Colleges and Experiment Stations, Agriculture Handbook 63. It was prepared in the Office of Experiment Stations, compiled by Dorothy N. Gilkison. It is arranged by States, colleges, and stations, alphabetically. Each name is followed by degree, title, and other information. The index contains more than 12,000 names.

Department safety council active

Cooperation of USDA Safety Council members and the various agencies of the Department to cut down losses and injuries from accidents was stressed by the council in a series of panel discussions in the early part of 1954. The panel furthered plans for closer cooperation between safety groups and the employees of the agencies over the United States. It was suggested that administrative officers could take a prominent part in spreading safety ideas and practices throughout the Department. At the February meeting, Maynard Coe of the National Safety Council spoke on the President's Highway Safety Conference. More than 6,000 farm people lost their lives in automobile accidents last year.

Harry Garver, chairman of the farm works committee, reported at the March meeting that the Fact Sheet for Farm Safety Week was completed. Carl E. Herrick, Personnel, served as moderator of the panels.

Tootell new FCA Governor

President Eisenhower has approved the appointment of Robert B. Tootell, of Pullman, Wash., to be Governor of the Farm Credit Administration. Mr. Tootell is director of Washington State Agricultural Extension Service. He will be the chief executive officer of FCA under the Federal Farm Credit Board, succeeding C. R. Arnold. The Federal Farm Credit System includes 12 Federal land banks, 1,000 national farm loan associations and numerous other groups and banks. It lends farmers \$2½ billion yearly. Governor Tootell was born in Wisconsin, was graduated from Montana State College in 1927, received his master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of California, and attended the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard.

Death of Harold Baldwin

Death claimed Harold Baldwin, 56, Connecticut agricultural editor since 1943. He attended New York State College of Agriculture, at Morrisville, and Iowa State College, and received his degree from the University of Connecticut in 1924. He served several years in the editorial departments of the American Agriculturist, and the New England Homestead.

Research on wheels

The Washington State Experiment Station has undertaken a new program for farm testing of basic research findings. The project is called "outlying testing." Dr. Lowell Nelson and Harold Cosper will cover the field. The work consists of simple replicated experiments that can be handled on cooperating farms without disrupting the regular farm work.

New writing book

A new publication "Notes for Guidance of Authors of Extension Bulletins" has been issued at Cornell (Ithaca, N. Y.). Nell Leonard is the author of this and other bulletins for agricultural writers and editors.

Friends

A young man from the Sugar Branch presented himself to the nurse when the bloodmobile of the American Red Cross made its monthly call at the Department of Agriculture. Could he donate blood for an individual? The nurse, Mrs. Margaret Q. Hackett, of Personnel, registered him, and he told her that he wanted to donate his blood to Congressman Alvin M. Bentley, of Michigan, who was wounded when Congress was fired on by terrorists March 2. "Would you like to tell me why you select the Congressman?" asked the nurse. "Yes," the young man replied, "because I am a Puerto Rican."

Do send them in!

Do you occasionally jot down a few words on unusual happenings in your official circle? You might send in an item to the USDA. Any employee, at one time or another can ring the bell.

USDA comes out at intervals of 2 weeks. It doesn't try to compete with the newspapers any more than it competes with magazines of unlimited space. It must, therefore, concentrate on quality—tight pack and no waste! You know that the average USDA article is about 20 typewritten lines, and the average brief 3 to 6 lines.

Trying to make the USDA interesting, we draw on all important official acts and reports, accounts of outstanding performance, on-the-spot observations, interpretations of new rules, personnel changes and promotions, doings of retirees, and formulations of policies. We always need a number of brief and factual accounts, authenticated and cleared, about administrative and personal incidents, and every agency and USDA Club is invited to send one in on occasion. The briefer the items are, the more we have room for. We may not have space for every contribution, but at least we will read them all. We cannot undertake to return the manuscripts.

We like significant items such as those that demonstrate the workings of a program or tell the why and how of a success, a failure, or a near miss. Or they may instance the quality of a man, a knack of administration, a thought to safety, a plan realized, a work problem correctly solved, a record broken. They may briefly announce important appointments, transfers, retirements, deaths, and special honors. And remember, since we can't print much "spot" news as such, we try to make up in quality. Address Editor, USDA.

The way we like it

Let it please thee to keep a moderate-sized farm, so that thy garners may be full of fruits in their season.

—HESIOD (720 B. C.)

April 7, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 7

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 21, 1954

They lived for Entomology

THE WORLD of insects has been likened to a tide. In its ebb and flow, the insect tide may strike man through his crops, his domestic animals, his stored foods, or his health, at uncertain times and places. Yet the tides are not without patterns. Entomologists have studied these, and today the time and place of most of the heavy attacks are fairly predictable, and new ways of combating insects are being discovered every year.

Entomology is fairly new as a systematic science. In 1854, people were still holding conferences on "insectology." (The Latin and Greek words mean the same thing). "Entomology" gradually began to be applied to the subject of insects as they affect agriculture and economics.

This year USDA is commemorating the 100th anniversary of professional entomology. Although USDA entomology dates back only to 1862, when the Department was established as an independent agency, the practice of this science in Federal Government began in 1854 as an agricultural function of the Patent Office. In the Department, entomology was established from the beginning. Then, there were three entomologists in the USDA. Today, the entomology and plant quarantine groups of the Department have about 2,000. This is not many, for in the growing season, about 37 percent of all inquiries reaching the Department are on insects.

Through the century some 6,500 persons in the United States have become entomologists. Nearly 4,500 of them are alive today. Nobody claims this high survival is due to longevity alone; the great majority of living entomologists must have been born since 1900. About 1,000 United States entomologists are engaged in research; the rest are in regulatory work or serving in other capacities all over the States and the producing centers and ports in foreign countries.

Space does not permit the listing of the

hundreds of eminent scientists now active in the field of entomology. However, listed here are a few of the entomologists, no longer living, who have been outstanding in the development of the science and the entomological services of the Department.

TOWNEND GLOVER.—Named in 1854 to collect information on insects, new U. S. Bureau of Agriculture, Patent Office. First entomologist of Department. Warned public about importing insects.

CHARLES VALENTINE RILEY.—With Glover and L. O. Howard, one of first three Federal entomologists, saved orchards and vineyards. His research set the pattern for work in modern entomology.

JOHN HENRY COMSTOCK.—Taught at Cornell. Chief Entomologist, USDA, 2 years. Author Comstock Manual for the Study of Insects, and other books.

FRANCIS MARION WEBSTER.—Field studies over the States and Australia, 1884-1916. Became head of Cereal and Forage Crop Insect Investigations, 1906. Specialized on grain insects.

LEE A. STRONG.—First Chief of the new Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, 1934-41. For many years waged constant warfare on the insects that cost this country billions in crop and animal losses every year.

LELAND OSSIAN HOWARD.—Dr. Howard brought vision and constructive leadership to the war on insects over much of the 93 years of his lifetime. From 1894 to 1927 he was chief of the USDA's entomology work. Houseflies, mosquitoes, and many plant pests yielded ground and were brought under practical control by his educational drives, which included countless lectures and a thousand articles and bulletins. Yellow fever and typhoid and many insect-borne diseases of plants and animals were practically wiped out as carriers or were controlled.

CHARLES L. MARLATT.—Charles L. Marlatt, who died recently, has been called the father of the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, which made possible the setting up of barriers to invasion by foreign insect pests. Dr. Marlatt was active in Federal entomology for nearly half a century.

ELMER DARWIN BALL.—Dr. Ball showed how a good science teacher can have national influence. He taught in Arizona, Utah, and Iowa colleges and served USDA as specialist and consultant on entomology. He demonstrated relationship of the leafhopper to curly top disease of sugar beets. He came to Washington as Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Meredith in 1920, and was Director of Scientific Work of the Department, 1921-25. Also first Director of USDA Graduate School.

PERCY N. ANNAND.—Joined Department in 1929, Chief of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, 1939-50. His record included protection of food and fiber crops and outstanding wartime work by his scientific organization in saving the lives of millions from disease.

Had your milk today?

A HISTORY-making program to increase the consumption of dairy products got underway April 1 and will carry on through the peak of June. The Department has assurance of cooperation of the dairy industry in the program. The Department has also launched a nationwide educational movement to increase culling of low-producing cows. It is believed the farmer and dairyman have more incentive to sell more cows since beef prices have strengthened in recent months.

From the start of the program, Secretary Ezra Taft Benson has believed the reduction in parity prices from 90 percent to 75 percent would result in some reduction in prices of cheese and butter, and he stated at the outset that he hoped and expected that consumers would have to pay less for fluid milk in many areas. Progress was evident also toward agreement on methods of moving Government stocks. Some sales will be made abroad, "providing they do not involve price benefits not available to United States consumers." Secretary Benson also pointed out that if we would use as much dairy produce per capita now as did in 1945, practically all the existing surplus of one and a quarter billion pounds would be used up.

Farrington new Solicitor

ROBERT L. Farrington, formerly director of the Agricultural Credit Services, has been appointed Solicitor of the Department, succeeding Karl D. Loos, who is returning to private law practice. Solicitor Farrington has had long experience both in agricultural and legal fields, having served as secretary of the Central Bank for Cooperatives, as a staff member of the general counsel of the Farm Credit Administration, and Associate Solicitor of the Department. He was named deputy governor of the Farm Credit Administration in 1947, then Cooperative Bank Commissioner. Kenneth L. Scott, deputy director of the production credit service of FCA, succeeds Mr. Farrington as head of the Agricultural Credit Services. Mr. Scott was born in Illinois, lived some years in Missouri, Idaho, and Maryland. He was on the FCA staff for the last 20 years.

Will the gentleman yield?

"The person who drives by the golden rule will never have a serious accident" declares Ned Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council.

Some new FHA personnel

HOMER D. COGDELL of Denver has been named Colorado State director of the Farmers Home Administration, Administrator R. B. McLeaish announces. Mr. Cogdell who has had much experience as a land appraiser, became regional and international representative for International Harvester Co. He was born in Alabama and attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Recent additions to the Washington office of FHA are Wylie B. Reed and Malcolm H. Holliday. Mr. Reed is assistant administrator for loan operations. He is a country banker and farmer from Morrison, Okla., and served for 8 years as managing officer of the National Farm Loan Association at Guthrie.

Mr. Holliday, born and educated in Kentucky, is assistant to Administrator R. B. McLeaish and is responsible for activities of the services divisions in the national office. He is a former newspaper publisher and past president of the Kentucky Press Service.

Appointment of Howard C. Goddard of Urbana as Ohio State director for the Farmers Home Administration was announced March 22. On his farm near Urbana, Mr. Goddard raises registered Hampshire hogs, has a 15-cow dairy herd, a number of registered Shropshire sheep, and a small beef herd. He is secretary-treasurer of the Champaign County Agricultural Society, and engages in many civic activities. He attended Ohio State University.

Pink Bollworm Center

THE NEW Pink Bollworm Research Center, at Brownsville, Tex., is expected to play an important role in intensification of the long fight against this serious cotton pest. The center was dedicated January 24, in the presence of Governor Shivers, Congressman Bentsen, and many others. Dr. S. B. Fracker, assistant to Dr. B. T. Shaw, Agricultural Research Administrator, gave the dedicatory address. Other speakers included: The Governor, Congressman Bentsen, and Directors R. D. Lewis of the Texas station, Clay Lyle of the Mississippi station and director of Mississippi Extension, and G. G. Gibson of Texas Extension Service. Dr. Fred C. Bishopp, now with Oscar Johnson Cotton Foundation, and overall coordinator of pink bollworm research for the Department and the Foundation, was master of ceremonies. USDA entomologists, State agricultural research stations, and rep-

resentatives of the cotton industry approved location of the Center at Brownsville.

Garden Club enjoys art

THE ART and intricacy of Japanese Bonkei gardening on trays and dishes was brought startlingly before the USDA Garden Club, March 31, when Mrs. Herbert B. Powell built such a garden in 20 minutes. Like most Japanese dish or tray gardens, it was perfected to the last detail of landscape, country life, and social custom. There are many scenes from windows of Washington and vicinity that would lend themselves equally well for practice of the 1300-year-old Bonkei garden art, Mrs. Powell indicated.

The artist works with special clays, various colored sands, numerous shades of green from chlorophyll and seaweed, and other raw material she brought home from Japan. Almost no Japanese home is without its Bonkei garden, best viewed from a kneeling position. Japanese girls are taught this art as carefully as flower arrangement, in courses that last for painstaking years; for the Bonkei is an oriental art replica of life in the local scene.

The next meeting of the USDA Garden Club will be May 12.

"Seed ambassador"

THE UNITED States is now raising most of its own seeds and some for export. Importations from Europe are not as heavy as formerly, but they are still considerable, and trade in seed between the two continents is mutually advantageous. Dr. W. H. Youngman, seed and garden specialist, was recently selected by Foreign Agricultural Service to be our "seed ambassador" to Europe.

He will embark about May 1, and will make a factual study of the crops and seed trade and recommend action for improving the trade between United States and the seed-producing countries, especially of northern and central Europe.

No seed is permitted to enter the United States that has not been thoroughly tested before shipping, and the contracts are so written, that defective seed carrying disease, pests, or having less than specified percentage of viability is shipped back at the seller's expense. Since our quarantine officials are on the job months ahead of shipment, and inspectors are vigilant, very little poor seed crosses the Atlantic, either way, current rumors to the contrary.

"Grassland Progress"

THE *Grassland Newsletter* has been revived as the *Grassland Progress*, and will go out on a quarterly basis, Extension Service announces. The national steering committee is composed as follows:

Directors of experiment stations: H. M. Briggs, Wyoming; R. D. Lewis, Texas; H. E. Myers, Kansas; D. H. Sieling, Massachusetts. Directors of Extension: H. R. Albrecht, Pennsylvania; L. E. Hoffman, Indiana; Clay Lyle, Mississippi; C. U. Pickrell, Arizona. Department of Agriculture: C. M. Ferguson, Administrator of Federal Extension Service, chairman; P. F. Aylesworth, Secretary's Office; H. C. Knoblauch, Agricultural Research Service, Office of Experiment Stations; B. T. Shaw, Administrator of Agricultural Research Service; L. I. Jones, Federal Extension Service, secretary of steering committee.

Research studies are now being conducted in five major farming regions to develop recommended systems of grassland farming for typical situations in each region. Attention will be given to the extent to which farmers can profitably grow more hay and improved pasture on the acres of land to be diverted from cotton, wheat, and corn, under the acreage allotment program.

Most of the material for the grassland publication will be sent in from the States through the Office of Experiment Stations and the Extension Service. It will be supplemented with contributions from the Federal research staff at Beltsville.

An exhibit on grasslands is to be held in the Patio, May 10-26. The theme is: "Grasslands in the Readjustment of Agricultural Production."

Poultry conferences

A SERIES of conferences on poultry and egg regulations, standards, and grades, as well as problems and programs concerning the industry, is scheduled for 10 leading cities in April and May. Melvin Buster, Chief of the Poultry Division of Marketing and Services Branch of Agricultural Marketing Service, has invited State colleges, departments of agriculture, education, and public health, and members of inspection services and other interested persons to attend. Industry, State and Federal personnel will be given opportunity to present their views and recommend improved methods and standards.

The first meeting will be held in Boston, April 26-27.

40 years, and bicycles

MAY will bring a day of fulfilment for John Wesley Johnson, who will round out 40 years of service in the Department of Agriculture, having served as messenger under 11 Secretaries. He will vacation for a few months at his old home in Washington County, Miss., and return to live in Washington, D. C.

Cheerful and industrious, "Little Johnson" took his civil service examination in a local post office and in 1914 came to work for Assistant Secretary Carl Vrooman when David F. Houston was Secretary of Agriculture during the Woodrow Wilson administration. A few years ago Dr. Vrooman revisited the Secretary's office and enjoyed a reunion with his former employee.

When the office of Under Secretary was created, Johnson took up his work with Rexford Guy Tugwell, and has continued on the job ever since, now serving with Under Secretary True D. Morse. He "knew all the Secretaries personally" and says that his own chiefs were always courteous, reasonable, and appreciative men. It is said that on his first day in Washington, Johnson was sworn in twice. It was a mixup, he says, and perhaps the only one of its kind in history. At least, the oath "took" for 40 years.

When Johnson started with Agriculture, after 3 years work with the Army engineers on a Mississippi River boat, messengers were still riding bicycles. Johnson pedaled documents to the White House and to Congress. Often confidential, he says, and delivered safely.

Back home, Johnson picked cotton, waited tables at officers' mess, and was stockman in a Greenville store. His experience has proven valuable. Washington County, he recalls, has produced such writers as Octavus Roy Cohen and Leo Sack. Sherman Briscoe of the Office of Information is also from there.

With 43 years of Government work to his credit, Johnson now plans to play at fishing.

Maclay joins Peoria lab

W. Dayton Maclay, a national authority on carbohydrates and the chemistry of forage crops has been appointed to head the USDA farm product utilization research at the Northern Utilization Research Branch, Peoria, Ill., B. T. Shaw, administrator of the Agricultural Research Service announces. Dr. Maclay succeeds Dr. Reid T. Milner, who has resigned to become head of the Depart-

ment of Food Technology at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

During the last 6 years, Dr. Maclay has been head of the Field Crop Utilization Section (formerly termed the Biochemical Division) at the Western Utilization Research branch, Albany, Calif. With the Government more than 17 years, he has been responsible for planning and directing a research program in 11 western States on sugar beets, alfalfa, wheat, and rice.

Dr. Maclay is a native of Nebraska. He holds two degrees from the University of Nebraska. He has published 71 scientific papers and is coauthor of many patents.

Armed Forces Day, May 15

EVERYBODY is invited to observe Armed Forces Day, May 15, 1954, when the Armed Forces will be at home to the public, and programs will carry the theme that the Armed Forces of the United States represent Power for Peace.

The Secretary of Defense has announced that on and about May 15, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Reserve Forces will be "on parade" and "at home" to visitors at all posts, camps, stations, bases, armories, reserve centers, and other defense facilities, in the States and Territories and overseas wherever Americans are stationed. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson in a statement to USDA employees praises the friendly relations of the departments in their defense of life and livelihood, and the rights and liberties of our people.

"I urge the employees of the Department of Agriculture to take advantage of the community activities and the 'open house' on May 15 to get better acquainted with our Armed Forces" he said. "On all days of the year, but particularly on Armed Forces Day, great honor is due those who stand ready in defense of justice and peace. May a kind Providence protect them."

To see the Arboretum

Horticulturists are always admitted to the National Arboretum grounds on working days, but the infant arboretum does not have facilities to care for all visitors, and admission is by appointment, except during the azalea season. Of the teeming thousands of visitors who come to Washington to see the cherry blossoms and the fine and varied plantings about the Government buildings, comparatively few know about the National Arboretum, a mile or so northeast of the Capitol. It is an all-living plants affair. It is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, as part of the Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS. Its progress and development owes much to a national advisory council of leading scientists and horticulturists.

Many see atomic show

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION's display in the Patio April 5-9 captured the interest of Department officials, research workers, and visitors from over the country. One of the principal ways in which atomic studies are aiding agriculture is in clarifying our knowledge of the processes of nature in plants and animals.

A display of the "Use of Isotopes in Agriculture" was used to demonstrate the great effectiveness of tracing the movement of nutrients in sap stream and blood stream. A little radioactive material is added to a plant nutrient, and its progress and distribution through root, leaf, and stem can be traced by a Geiger counter. These studies are adding to our knowledge of the manufacture of milk in cows, eggs in chickens, and even the mysteries of photosynthesis in plants, whereby the sun's energy works to change elements of air and water into carbohydrates, and makes the leaves green. The heart of a tree is no longer hidden, and the inside of a cow is no longer dark. The effect of radiation hastening or exaggerating genetic changes is plants in another phenomenon under investigation.

OPEDANS hearing Repr. Hope

High point in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of OPEDA, Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture, is the banquet April 23. Congressman Clifford Hope is to be the principal speaker. Among well known guests planning to attend are Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson and members of his staff. OPEDA officers and committees have been active all spring, and Executive Director Walt Dutton has found time to issue an oversize number of OPEDA Newsletter, with the new emblem of OPEDA, a monad in colors, at the masthead.

Mr. Dutton reports that all the council groups are active among the membership in Washington and in the field, planning further activities of the quarter-century anniversary.

Farmers have buyers' market

A season of plenty in farm machinery and allied manufactured articles the farmer needs is hailed by *The Link*, published by Federal Land Bank of New Orleans. "The market for these and other products is now highly competitive," says an article based on a United States Department of Agriculture report, "and farmers can drive for savings if not for bargains."

A break and a manuscript

MADGE J. REESE, who is Field Agent of the Division of Home Economics Programs, of the Federal Extension Service, came back from Canada with a broken ankle, a manuscript, and a discovery. The discovery was this: that convalescence stimulates the pen. Hospitalized for many weeks after a fall in Toronto, Miss Reese put her irrepressible energy to work summing up her findings in a 5,000-word article entitled "Rural Women in Canada—How Like Our Own They Are!" The reader gets an impression that the Canadian farm home is often a very busy place.

Provincial Departments of Agriculture are perhaps the key to the whole system of public sponsorship and training in agriculture and homecraft. Their supervisors and field representatives do much of the work performed by county agents in the United States. The departments also help to finance handicrafts. In Quebec Province alone, the Government has a plan to keep 60,000 looms and 100,000 spinning wheels at work. In Ontario, special agents are assigned to help farm youth projects. Health, education, and industrial programs are supported in every Province.

Of special cultural interest is the project of Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of a former Governor General of Canada, to preserve local Canadian history for posterity. Miss Reese quotes:

"The older folks with knowledge of valuable history are passing on, historic sites are being forgotten, and old landmarks are disappearing. The Women's Institute realize that Canadian history begins in their own communities, and are taking a keen interest in the responsibility of compiling Tweedsmuir village histories. They are compilations of local and township history featuring the settlements, pioneer families, industries, public enterprises, schools, churches, and collections of valuable records. In some communities local museums or antique exhibits are established. The valuable compilations are kept in safe places but are made available for those interested in historical research, or anyone wishing to review them."

Miss Reese was a delegate to the Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, in Toronto, and also meetings of the Women's Institute movement, which has 95,000 members in Canada. A limited number of her reports are available from Extension Service.

The day of awards, May 18

We hope the weather man is able to do something special for us Tuesday, May 18, when the Department holds its 8th annual Honor Awards Ceremony. Many will remember the summer showers at the open-air Sylvan Theater at the foot of Washington Monument. Rain or shine, the presentation of the awards is a stirring event. *USDA* will issue an 8-page magazine on May 19 in order to print the names of those honored at the ceremony.

Chicken barbecue for racers

H. L. Shrader, *USDA* Extension Poultryman, is informed that the Indiana State Poultry Association is planning a poultry promotion barbecue just before the Indianapolis automobile races, May 27. Some 700 officials of the 500-mile race, drivers, crewmen, working press, radio and television representatives, and others, will be supplied. Robert L. Hogue, cooperative extension poultryman at Purdue, writes that the association is planning similar events at other sports events to stimulate consumption of poultry.

Bloodmobile returns 27th

The Bloodmobile of the American Red Cross will return to the Department April 27. It will be stationed at room 6962 South Building.

It's all in the book

ALMOST ANYTHING you may wish to know about agriculture—if you want it in figures—may be found in *Agricultural Statistics, 1953*, early off the press and now in distribution. This 780-page book is a must for statisticians and agricultural economists, and has been a standby for information since the first number came out in 1936. Field offices, libraries, and State colleges receive them, but others can order them from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. The price in paper cover is \$2.25.

The 1953 book is a little more compact than that for 1952, which carried yield and price data on grains and livestock back to the 1860's. Most of the tables this year carry back only 10 to 20 years; therefore the 1952 book is also valuable to keep for reference.

Richard K. Smith of Agricultural Marketing Service, is chairman of the Yearbook Statistical Committee, and June A. Panciera, also AMS, is secretary. New members of the committee are Roy S. Beck, Extension Service, who succeeded O. M. Johnson (retired); and Orval E. Goodsell, Foreign Agricultural Service, who succeeded Walter A. Schreiber. The other members of the committee are: Carleton P. Barnes, ARS; Ralph U. Battles, FCA; Ronald E. Betts, AMS; Creighton N. Guellow, AMS; Almon T. Mace, FHA; and Samuel W. Mendum, AMS.

Thoughts in season

"A MAN LIKES his old hat . . . Mine blew out a car window on the leeward side of your town. It was lightweight, weathered to silver and green, had two pitchfork holes in the crown and small moth etchings under the brim, but it wore good. B. A. N. Reward." (Want ad. sent to local daily.) This man deserved a recovery.

Old hats are an economy, and a man has been known to have a lifetime reputation for being economical. They are comfortable, and men who wear them are usually easy to get along with. They are becoming to some, and may look well for a long time, if they are made of good material and are not used too much for carrying eggs, chips, manuscripts, or pet squirrels. They are also fine for rainy days, any kind.

It takes a lot of talk and trying on to sell a man a hat that may fit his head. But once that is decided satisfactorily, the customer is likely to come back sometime. "If you have a broad face, buy a broad brim, if your cranium is inclined to be broad, but not deep, you need a tall crown. The flat hat is old college, the roll-up softy is—whatever you want it for. The hue of the hatband may depend on whether you want it for charm, or protective coloration, or because it is somebody's favorite. Hat should match your suit, or it shouldn't. It should sit straight on the top of your head, or be capable of pulling down over the eyes or the ears." You will in the course of a curious and well-spent life, hear all of these arguments. Pay them no mind; let your wife pick your hats, she will see more of them than you do.

When do you stop wearing an old hat? Perhaps you'll let the climbing rose bush or the hound pup snag it to death, or you may give it to welfare while there is yet some wear in it, or while some men still stand out for the right to pick a hat and wear it.

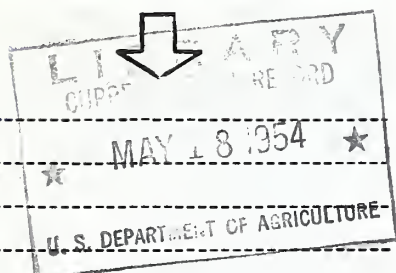
"Strength" is reputed to be the longest one-syllable word in the language. In all things strength does go pretty far.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MAY 5, 1954

Cattle embargo nears end

AFTER 7 years of struggle Mexico has about cleared up the foot-and-mouth disease threat to its cattle industry. Secretary of Agriculture Benson announced April 14 that, if no more outbreaks occur, he will declare the neighboring Republic to be free of the disease December 31, 1954. Such action will automatically open the United States-Mexican border to imports of livestock and livestock products.

The last outbreak of the disease was in May 1953. Precautions and eradication measures adopted at that time held the outbreak to a radius of 30 miles from its original source in the State of Vera Cruz. The last new case in the quarantined area was reported in December. This and all other cases of the disease have been eliminated. Previous to the outbreak last year Mexico had been free of known cases for over 8 months. The Joint Mexican-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease has agreed on testing and inspection procedures for the remainder of 1954 to guard against recurrence of the disease.

Secretary Benson praised both the Mexican and the United States authorities for their effective cooperation in bringing the outbreak under control. The eradication campaign of the Joint Commission has been under the direction of Dr. Lauro Ortega, Mexico's Subsecretary of Agriculture for Livestock, and Walter Thurston, codirector, who is special assistant to Secretary Benson. The Secretary's advisory committee, headed by Albert K. Mitchell of New Mexico, have also given valuable assistance in the program.

For superior work

Manager C. S. Laidlaw, of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, has presented Certificates of Merit for superior accomplishment in conjunction with outstanding performance ratings to the following employees in the Washington Office:

Mary E. Dyer, secretary.
Morrie S. Hill, administrative assistant.
Rubygene Knapp, position classifier.
Bonnie S. Nemerofsky, secretary.

NPII meet in D. C. in June

Some of the present emphasis on individual records of performance may be placed on the performance of progeny in the ROP work under the National Poultry Improvement Plan. Proposals to this effect will be presented by the Record of Performance study committee at a national Department-sponsored conference to be held in Washington, June 22-25. Members of the committee include Dr. Edward V. Glazener, North Carolina State College; Morley A. Jull, University of Maryland; Dean R. Marble, Cornell University; and J. Holmes Martin, Purdue University.

Putting surplus to work

WE HAVE, or soon may have, fruits that will not spoil and bread that will not go stale, eggs 6 months old but still fresh, milk bought and sold on an all-solids basis, "instant" mashed potatoes, frozen bakery goods, milk desserts cheaper than ice cream, powdered fruit juices that can be stored on the kitchen shelf and can be quickly reconstituted with water. There will also be processed fats for stock feed, flameproof cotton cloth, cotton bags more durable than jute, and excellent alcohol motor fuel from surplus grain. Some of these things we have already and others that are on the way will prove significant factors in putting farm surpluses to use, according to Dr. G. E. Hilbert, Director of Utilization Research, USDA.

At a meeting of the National Chemurgic Research Council, at Memphis April 6, Dr. Hilbert recalled that the present laboratories of the Department were the outgrowth of efforts to meet earlier farm product surpluses. This type of research has helped to cushion the impact of periodic surplus supplies. The seasonal (perishable) surpluses should be converted into stable, palatable convenient forms usable throughout the year. The introduction of frozen concentrated orange juice, for instance, prevented a surplus problem in oranges. Removal of glucose from dried eggs will prolong their keeping. Use of nonfat dry milk solids has multiplied 10 times in 25 years. Milk problems are receiving attention of the researchers. Research will do as much for nonperishable surpluses. "Research has shown us how to produce abundantly," says Dr. Hilbert, "It is also showing us how to use this abundance efficiently."

Grassland show May 10-26

AN EXHIBIT on grasslands is scheduled for the Patio, USDA, May 10-26. This is one of the series of comprehensive ex-

hibits of broad interest sponsored by Secretary Benson. It will portray the importance of grasslands in our national economy; the extent of grass area in the United States; how grass can be used in conservation and rotations; how it can be made to supplement other forage crops; and how to improve the diet and balance the Nation's farm program. The exhibit is being designed and assembled by Exhibits Service, Office of Information, with help from land-grant colleges. It is an educational feature of the activities of the national steering committee of the Grasslands program. This committee is drawn from the Department and the land-grant colleges, and is headed by C. M. Ferguson, Administrator of Federal Extension Service.

Knapp named Chief of FCS

JOSEPH G. KNAPP was appointed Administrator of Farmer Cooperative Service by Secretary Benson April 15. Mr. Knapp has been at the helm of FCS as its acting administrator since December 4, 1953, when Farm Credit Administration became an independent agency and the Cooperative Research and Service Division was changed to FCS. FCS does research, educational, and service work for more than 10,000 farmer cooperatives serving some 3 million farmers in the United States.

Administrator Knapp had 20 years of service with CR&S. He started in 1934, in charge of the farm supplies purchasing section. From January 1948 to last December he served as associate and then acting chief of CR&S.

Born in Colorado, Mr. Knapp worked, as a boy, on farms and ranches in that area. He received B. S. and M. A. degrees from the University of Nebraska and a Ph. D. from Stanford. He is a writer with a background of farming, teaching, and research work. Most of his bulletins, reports, articles, and books deal with agricultural cooperation and farm marketing.

Future in frozen foods

SINCE FROZEN foods can be kept in any home freezer box, and for a time in almost any home refrigerator, it is somewhat surprising to find relatively small numbers of city families are so far taking advantage of opportunities to use these foods. A survey reaching 2,040 urban families, and covering 12 common items of food, conducted by USDA marketing specialists, is reported by Agricultural Marketing Service in a new publication, *Purchases of Frozen and Canned Foods as Related to Home Refrigeration Facilities (MRR-60)*.

Annual purchases per family for 12 principal frozen food items included 3.5 packages of frozen whole chicken, 44 6-ounce cans of frozen orange concentrate, 14 packages of peas, 9 of lima beans, 9 snapbeans, 5 of chicken parts, 5 of fish fillets, 6 of cut corn, 8.5 of strawberries, 8 of spinach, 8 of lemonade, and 7 of broccoli.

The only items bought by more than half the 2,040 families were frozen orange juice concentrate, frozen peas, and frozen strawberries. Questions of flavor, familiarity with use, general quality, and convenience enter into popularity of frozen and canned goods.

The canning of foods has been extensive for many years and has always had a stabilizing influence on the market for fruits, vegetables, and other products that are prone to flood stores and stands at certain seasons. So in some weeks there would be plenty, in others a scarcity, and often the marketing would be demoralized, causing heavy losses in money and goods and uncertainty in supply and consumption.

The brief report was written by H. W. Bitting. In *Agricultural Situation* released April 10, the reviewer points out that whereas 89 percent of urban families now have refrigeration, only a small proportion buy frozen foods, a situation indicating opportunity for further study and for expansion of sales and consumption of many fresh frozen foods.

Promotion for Dr. L. E. Johnson

Leslie E. Johnson will become professor and head of the Animal Husbandry Department of Iowa State College, July 1. He will be responsible for the teaching, research, and extension programs in the fields of animal and dairy husbandry. Director Floyd Andre announces. Born at Oskaloosa, Dr. Johnson holds three degrees from Ames, and has taught in the State colleges of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In 1949 the Federal Government appointed him regional coordinator for the beef cattle project in the 12 North Central States.

Better cooking for hog feed

To assist in the battle against vesicular exanthema, the swine disease to which some 800,000 hogs have become infected or have been exposed in 18 months, the USDA and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare have issued a joint booklet on *Equipment for the Heat-Treatment of Garbage To Be Used for Hog Feed*. Studies over the past year indicate that eradication of the disease is impossible so long as raw garbage is fed, and that better cooking is needed. Recognizing this, 41 States have enacted legislation to regulate the feeding of garbage to swine. Of the 12,000 garbage-feeding establishments in the country, about half are now cooking the garbage before feeding it.

The latest findings on cooking the feed are presented in this booklet. Address VEEP, ARS, USDA.

Himebaugh in Washington

Keith Himebaugh, former USDA Director of Information, has transferred from field headquarters at Lima, Peru, to Foreign Operations Administration main office in Washington. He has charge of college contacts involving agriculture in Latin America.

Busy spring for hatcheries

Heavy hatchings of chicks and turkey poults are reported by AMS. Commercial hatcheries in March turned out 310,436,000 chicks, an increase of 35 million over March 1953. Demand for chicks both for layer replacement and for broilers was good.

Dean Russell dies at 88

Dr. H. L. Russell, 88, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin, from 1907 to 1931, died April 10. An outstanding bacteriologist, he had been, in his youth, a student of Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur. One of his early scientific contributions was the application of bacteriological findings to the canning of food. He was the first director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, also a former president of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

Rise in farm output

USDA economists report more increases in the rate of farm output with fewer man-hours of labor. Output per hour of farm-work this year is higher than ever—over 2½ times that of 40 years ago and 3 percent higher than in 1952.

"Months of cherry blossoms"

A "short course" in cherry blossoms, illustrated by flowering branches from many fine Japanese species, was given the Garden Club of USDA April 14 by John L. Creech, Director of Plant Introduction Station, ARS, Glen Dale, Md. He also brought samples of quinces and crabapples. With all these he presented principles of landscaping, and showed that it would be possible for the same garden to have a rotation of distinct old and new varieties in bloom over a period of several months.

Dr. Royal J. Haskell, Extension, the new president of the club, presided. The speaker for the May 12 meeting will be Arthur F. Mason, Chief of the Ocean Shipping Section, T&W-CSS. His topic will be "Iris—An Ideal Spring Flower."

Announcing examinations

CIVIL SERVICE examinations of particular interest to the Department of Agriculture and its employees are announced from time to time. Although such examinations are announced by the Civil Service Commission, the applications are sent to the Board of Civil Service Examiners for the Department and the resulting registers of eligibles are maintained by the Department Board. Practically all the personnel recruited from these examinations will be employed in the Department, and some by the Farm Credit Administration. It is important to the Department says K. F. McDaniel, Executive Secretary of the Central Board of Examiners, that the best available qualified people be attracted to apply for the examination.

Some present employees and well-qualified friends may also be interested in these jobs and the examinations. The great majority of positions in the Department are filled through the competitive civil service process. USDA will, as they are announced, print brief notices of these examinations, like the two following:

VETERINARIAN, grades GS-7 to GS-9.

FARM CREDIT EXAMINER, grades GS-7 to GS-9.

Apply to Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Junior intern program

The Junior Management Intern program is conducted by the Civil Service Commission and sponsored by the Interdepartmental Committee on Career Development. The committee selects the interns from nominations made by the agency in which the employee works. GS-7 and lower grades are eligible. The candidate must have the endorsement of his agency, as well as educational and service qualifications, and must be interested in a career in the Federal service and willing to undertake an intensive training course. Employees selected are released from regularly assigned duties for the semester-length training period. Nominations should be sent to Henry F. Shepherd in the Office of Personnel.

Oilseeds group sees Lab

The Oilseeds and Peanut Research Committee at the annual meeting in New Orleans, La., paid a visit to the USDA Southern Regional Laboratory and inspected the work in progress. The committee's principal recommendations were for further research on the genetics of soybeans, production research on peanuts, and study of resistance of flax to disease. In the field of utilization, recommendations included more study of chemical conversion of fatty acids of soybean oil for nonfood uses, such as protective coatings, plasticizers, and lubricants, and more study of possible industrial or medical uses of products derived from oilseeds by the use of micro-organisms, also expansion of studies of human nutritional requirements for fats. More research in marketing was also approved.

USDA films win

Walter K. Scott, Chief of the Motion Picture Section, Office of Information, is displaying a certificate of honor for films exhibited at the recent Edinburgh (Scotland) Film Festival. Sir Roger Makins, British Ambassador to the United States, presented the certificates. Of the 7 Government films 3 were produced by the Motion Picture Service.

The 3 films shown were Waters of Coweeta, a Forest Service picture, and 2 medical films made in the section for the Veterans' Administration. Each received a certificate. The original certificate for Waters of Coweeta was presented by the Ambassador to Earl W. Loveridge, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service, in a ceremony at the Department of Interior.

Late in April, the Forest Service was notified that Horse Sense, its film on training, had received the award of merit in the 1954 Safety Film Contest. The picture was taken in region 4, on the Salmon National Forest, in Idaho. The theme is that of the training given a young ranger by a veteran Forest Service ranger.

Cattle numbers and prices

NUMBERS of cattle on farms are gradually leveling off, according to Agricultural Marketing Service. Numbers rose only 1 million in 1953—to a record 94.7 million on January 1, 1954—after increasing 6 million in both 1951 and 1952. A reduction of 4 percent in the number of beef heifers on farms also indicates that the expansion in cattle is slowing down. Eastern regions are continuing to expand numbers of beef cattle more than is the West.

Present numbers provide a capacity for an usually high level of beef production—probably enough to keep consumption per person at a 72-76 pound annual rate. Consumption last year was 76 pounds. Average consumption in the 1930's was 53 pounds and in the 1940's, 60 pounds. Cattle prices could be affected in 1954 by drought and other factors, but they are now showing signs of stability, notes AMS.

Horsefall on fungicides

Director James G. Horsefall of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has taken sabbatical leave to do research work at the University of California. He will also revise his book "Fungicides and their Action," a textbook used in plant pathology courses, and will lecture to graduate students at Berkeley and Davis.

USDA: May 5, 1954

100 centennials in 1

Observance of "100 Years for Professional Entomology," this year is not just one big "World's Fair" type of celebration, but consists of more than 100 celebrations throughout the 48 States and overseas. The celebrations are being taken to the people. Modern types of communications are being used, from television and type to open houses and field days.

An Insect Fact Book has been issued by this profession and distributed widely. Schools are giving programs. The USDA has printed some new and revised editions of publications. And a slogan has been accepted for hubs for canceling mail: "Fight Your Insect Enemies!"

Bartered CCC crops

The Department announces barter of Government-owned farm commodities valued at \$1.6 million for 24,600 long tons of fertilizer from Germany, Austria, and Japan. The fertilizer is to be used in South Korea. More than \$109 million in agricultural commodities have been bartered in this manner since inception of the program in 1949. These trades are made under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, as amended.

VE quarantines

Changes in quarantines for Vesicular exanthema of swine were made in California and some of the Northeastern States in April, a few areas being cleared, and others being put under quarantine. Once-a-week cleaning and disinfecting of premises, feed, etc., was permitted to replace more stringent measures. As soon as cooking of garbage became general and no cases of V. E. were known, a number of areas were released from quarantine.

Sugar Beet Culture

Sugar Beet Culture in the North Central States, Farmers' Bulletin 2060, tells us that more than a fourth of the sugar-beet sugar produced in the United States comes from this northern humid area stretching from Ohio to North Dakota. The bulletin discusses the climatic adaptations and soil requirements necessary to success with the crop, which is grown only in the most favorable locations. There is information also on irrigation, rotations and culture, and control of diseases and insect pests. A chapter on by-products indicates that the opportunities for profitable use of beet tops and other residues, for feed and fertilizer are not always made the most of.

Confer on potato market

A hearing to consider an agreement and order for the marketing of Maine potatoes was set for April 27 at Presque Isle. The proposed agreement was similar to that of 1948-49 and 1950. Seven similar Federal marketing order programs are in effect in Western States.

G. S. to teach gardening

The USDA's Graduate School has recently organized five courses for the home gardener. One course, Plant Propagation for Home Gardeners, will be offered this summer. The basic principles of plant propagation, seed, cutting, layerage and graftage, and the practices used by growers and plant propagators will be taught by Dr. Lee J. Enright, assistant professor of ornamental horticulture, University of Maryland. Registration will be June 7-12. Courses on landscape design, garden plants, and care of ornamentals and lawns will be given in the fall and spring terms.

Named to Grad School Body

JAMES A. McCONNELL, Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service, and Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary, have been named by Secretary Benson as members of the Graduate School General Administration Board. They succeed C. R. Arnold of the Farm Credit Administration, and T. Roy Reid, who has recently become Director of the School. Secretary Benson also named Federal Extension Service Administrator Clarence M. Ferguson to serve as chairman of the Board. All three appointees have important educational background—Mr. McConnell taught at Cornell University, Mr. Ferguson taught at Michigan State College and Ohio State College, and Mr. Roberts studied at Utah University and George Washington University and taught in the Graduate School.

Shares his prosperity

Ott Todd, county 5-acre cotton contest winner of Spartanburg County, S. C., is now sharing his cottonseed with his neighbors at a nominal price to help them get better cotton yields on their small farms, reports County Agent R. C. Smith of the South Carolina Extension Service. Mr. Todd farms near Woodruff, and is considered one of the outstanding Negro farmers of his county.

His cotton yield averages 354 pounds per acre, 50 pounds above the county average. Two years ago, he won the county 5-acre contest, with a yield of 640 pounds per acre. He always shares seed with his neighbors. As a result, the cotton yield in the community has been increased, the county agent reports.

Extension turns 40

The Cooperative Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, State land-grant colleges, and local cooperators, will be 40 years old May 8. Cooperative extension dates from May 8, 1914, when President Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, which placed Government, State, county, and farmer on a partnership basis.

Woodward Chief dies

Death of Dave Savage, head of the Southern Great Plains experiment station was reported from Woodward, Okla., early in April. He had held the job for 9 years, was an expert on farming and range management of his region, and was well known in local civic circles. He had recently returned to Woodward from a year's service in Mexico.

Azalea book

An attractive, illustrated new book is The Glenn Dale Azaleas, Agricultural Monograph 20. The author is B. Y. Morrison, formerly principal horticulturist, Section of Plant Exploration and Introduction, ARS. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. Price 40 cents.

Had your milk today?

Atomic aid for agriculture

SECRETARY OF Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, praising the enterprise that has lifted the frozen-food industry in 25 years to a business with an annual turnover of \$1.2 billion a year, has expressed a hope that the use of atomic energy may create new and thriving enterprises. Speaking, April 13, at a dinner in honor of the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the frozen-food industry, he remarked:

"Just last week in the Department of Agriculture we had an exhibit showing the peaceful applications of atomic energy to agriculture. If atomic energy can help us speed up our knowledge of plant breeding, of fertilizer application, why can't it do much more? Can't we make the desert bloom through irrigation? By desalting seawater and transporting it by cheap atomic power to coastal cities, we can then retain for agricultural purposes the inland waters those cities now require. Won't that merely produce more surpluses, you ask? Not necessarily. Why not new plants, new products to add to our standard of living—just as the rubber tree and the soybean have done? Aren't frozen foods new products? Plastics? Automobiles? Airplanes?"

New age conversion factors

New DHIA age-conversion factors have been developed for all the major dairy breeds. These factors have been used in compiling DHIA proved-sire records since October 1, 1953. Since for some breeds at some ages the new factors differ significantly from the old factors, production records reported previous to October 1, 1953, and used in a DHIA proved-sire record will be recalculated and standardized, using the new factors. The new factors are included in BDI-Inf-162, "Standardizing Dairy-Herd-Improvement-Association Records in Proving Sires," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1974. "The Dairy Herd Improvement Association Program" has also been revised. These publications may be obtained upon request to the Livestock Research Branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Florida's FFA's hard to beat

Future Farmers of America from 47 States will have to beat Florida to win the awards offered by the American Institute of Cooperation, in the FFA annual contest for outstanding leadership in cooperation, according to A. I. C. announcement. Florida contestants won in 1952 and 1953.

Rodent capacity

Delaware Extension Service reminds us that "a single rat will eat as much as 50 pounds of grain a year." Rat control is a year-round job.

Interest sparks thought

Thinking must be kindled, like a fire by a draught; it must be sustained by some interest in the matter in hand.

—SCHOPENHAUER.

Readers' reminders

Mushroom bulletin

A revised edition is off the press of Circular 143, Common Mushrooms and How To Know Them. Starting with the "death cup" belonging to the deadly Amanita family of fungi, the author—Vera K. Charles—shows numerous specimens of the edible and poisonous varieties for the benefit of nature lovers and field excursionists. Write to Office of Information for your copy.

For part-timers

Issued first in 1945 and revised to date, is F. B. No. 1966. It's a treatise on many angles and inquiries sought by those who desire to start part-time farming. Kate Smith, now retired, cooperated in its authorship with O. J. Scoville.

"Precooked" fowl

A new building planned for the University of Georgia Poultry Department, which will house 500 hens and will be kept at a temperature of 90°, is part of a test scheduled for the next 3 to 5 years to show whether or not breeding birds for heat tolerance is desirable for the South. The study is possible through a grant of \$2,500 given by the American Hatchery Federation to the College of Agriculture. Till Huston, poultry professor in charge of the experiment, says records will be kept according to strains of birds and hatchability of eggs produced. Fertility and hatchability records of progeny from the birds will also be studied.

Grease wool classing

The wool industry has received a proposed adjustment in the classing of grease wool, submitted by the Department. The system has staple lengths designated in inches for each grade. This would substitute actual linear measure for the standard length terms now used. Grading wool for fineness is regarded as the most important factor in quality determination, but length of staple also has its market value and relates to the amount of clean wool found in a fleece, thus bearing directly upon the producer. To get a good basis for the proposed changes in classing, the Denver Wool Laboratory of Livestock Branch, AMS, examined 2,683,000 pounds of grease wool of all commercial grades, both Territory and Fleece wools.

Long live spinach!

Methods of improving the keeping qualities of packaged leafy vegetables are being studied at Beltsville, Md., and at some of the State experiment stations. Such vegetables as spinach in transparent plastic bags keep only a day or two after they are removed from refrigeration, and placed on store shelves or exposed to room temperatures. Soft rot bacteria does its work quickly. The damage runs into the millions every year. Experiments with powerful antibiotics show that the deterioration of leafy vegetables can be delayed a day or two—but the effect of the drugs on health has not been determined, and their use is illegal. Out of pioneering study something may develop, and give us more and fresher spinach.

For economists

Statisticians and economists working with livestock production and prices as well as the relations of feed and livestock economy will find a valuable aid in Technical Bulletin No. 1070, "Statistical Analyses Relating to the Feed-Livestock Economy." It's by Richard J. Foote, in cooperation with Malcolm Clough and Karl Fox, Agricultural Marketing Service. It's listed at 15 cents per copy at the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

Spring fever put to flight

NO CASES of spring fever in the Department of Agriculture this year. Newcomers and visitors are struck by the hum of business about the administrative offices, and remark on it. Contacts are easily arranged, dates are dates, and letters are things to be answered promptly. In fact, in writing as in interviews, the watchword seems to be "brevity with courtesy." And we are enjoying it.

"Things are picking up fast now," remarked G. E. Hilbert, Director of Utilization Research, ARS, who finds reorganization a slow but thorough process.

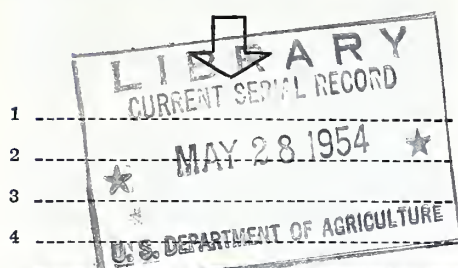
Much more than the shifting of units and personnel is involved in a reorganization. Haste needs to be made slowly, even in moving the furniture. New proposals and ideas must be weighed carefully, and accepted or rejected, and objectives set up with precise aim. The reassignment of individuals and work teams is always a ticklish job, even more so than the dropping of an activity altogether. Without fanfare and confusion, most of the major shifts have been made with barely perceptible interruption of essential work. Programs have been evolved, projects manned, square pegs fitted in square holes, and new undertakings set in motion. The Department is a new hive of activity.

The transition has not been smooth for everybody. Office and personal adjustments have had to be made, and USDA employees have taken up their new work cheerfully and with confidence. Of course, it has not given many tranquil hours to administrators of new agencies and units, or to personnel officers. No spring fever for them, either.

Watch for the May 19 USDA. It will contain the lists of Distinguished Service and Superior Service Awards.

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FOR MAY 19, 1954

Distinguished Service

ESTHER L. BATCHELDER, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For inspirational leadership and vision in developing and directing comprehensive research in food and nutrition and in applying research results to improved national and international utilization of food.

DR. RICHARD T. COTTON, ARS; Manhattan, Kans.: For outstanding world leadership in the field of control of insects attacking stored grains and cereal products.

DR. GEORGE M. DARROW, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For leadership and research contributions to the breeding and improvement of small fruits, thereby providing more dependable, productive, and better quality varieties of value to both the producer and the consumer.

J. K. O'SHAUGHNESSY, REA; Washington, D. C.: For bringing about significant economies in constructing rural electric lines, which resulted in making electric service available to a greater number of farms.

RALPH S. ROBERTS, SEC; Washington, D. C.: For unusual administrative perception and distinguished leadership in the formulation and administration of the Department's financial policies and programs, and outstanding contributions to administrative planning of world-wide agricultural activities.

RALPH A. RUSCA, ARS; New Orleans, La.: For developing, in cooperation with Ray C. Young, a radically new-type opening machine for lint cotton, which permits processing mechanically harvested cotton used in the manufacture of textiles without excessive waste.

RAY C. YOUNG, ARS; New Orleans, La.: For developing, in cooperation with Ralph A. Rusca, a radically new-type opening machine for lint cotton, which permits processing mechanically harvested cotton used in the manufacture of textiles without excessive waste.

ORIS V. WELLS, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For outstanding vision and initiative in developing and evaluating economic and statistical analyses and interpretations for use in the development and administration of sound agricultural programs for the Nation.

LOUIS C. WILLIAMS, EXT; Manhattan, Kans.: For distinguished service to agriculture; for outstanding achievement in public administration; and for leadership in strengthening State and National extension programs, policies and laws.

The Honor Awards

THE NAMES of those selected for receiving this year's Honor Awards are contained in this first issue of *USDA* following the ceremony. The program for the morning of May 18 at the Sylvan outdoor theater at the base of the Washington Monument honored 9 members of the Department with Distinguished Service Awards, and 84 with Superior Service Awards, presented by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson. Thirteen Superior Service Awards to units of the Department were announced, these to be presented later at unit headquarters. Fifty-one Length-of-Service Awards also go to employees who have served the Department for 40 years.

The address of the day by Vice President Nixon, and presentation of the William A. Jump Memorial Award, by W. Arthur Minor, chairman of the board of trustees, were also features of the program. Recipients of this year's Jump Award are Charles N. Manning of the Department of State and John D. Young of the Office of Defense Mobilization. Music was by the United States Navy Band. This was the eighth annual Awards ceremony. The Awards program has over the years abundantly justified itself as an incentive to sustained effort in the fields of agricultural science and administration.

Superior Service

HAROLD ABEL, AMS; Denver, Colo.: For demonstrating exceptional skill in organizing representatives from the ten Western States to plan and carry through research projects in the economics of marketing Western livestock.

GORDON ALDERTON, ARS; Albany, Calif.: For conducting original research resulting in the discovery and determination of structure of a new sulfur-containing amino acid in the polypeptide antibiotic subtilin.

SHIRLEY W. ANDERSON, EXT; Louisville, Ky.: For leadership in developing educational programs in the State of Kentucky which have led to more efficient production and marketing of farm products.

DR. SAMUEL I. ARONOVSKY, ARS; Peoria, Ill.: For research leading to new technological developments of national and international significance for production of paper from agricultural residues, and for initiative and organizational ability in stimulating industrial acceptance.

DOUGLAS B. BAGNELL, CEA; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional ability and leadership in investigating futures trading operations on commodity exchanges, in devising methods of maintaining supervision of such trading, and in suppressing price manipulation and other unlawful practices prohibited by the Commodity Exchange Act.

GLENN H. BAKER, SCS; Elkins, W. Va.: For meritorious service in adapting engineering phases of soil and water conservation to low-income farms in West Virginia and inspiring others to apply improved practices.

HARRIS T. BALDWIN, INF; Washington, D. C.: For presenting to the public scientific facts developed in the Department in the form of easily absorbed educational exhibits.

JAMES A. BAYTON, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For developing and applying psychophysical techniques in the field of commodity market research; and for ability and leadership in explaining, planning, and supervising consumer and market preference and acceptance studies.

N. ROBERT BEAR, PERS; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional accomplishments which have contributed materially to effective overall management and organization programs of the Department.

RAY BENDER, EXT; Westport, N. Y.: For leadership in the development and

establishment of birdsfoot trefoil as an important legume for New York State farms, and in stimulating the production and certification of its seed.

VERNE C. BEVERLY, EXT; Presque Isle, Maine: For outstanding leadership in successful programs of potato improvement, soil building, and crop diversification.

OSCAR F. BEYER, AMS; Chicago, Ill.: For unusual effectiveness in directing highly successful food distribution programs in the Midwest area of 11 States.

RICHARD T. BINGHAM, FS; Berkeley, Calif.: For leadership and exceptional accomplishments in conducting a cooperative project on selection, propagation, and testing of rust-resistant white pines, and in the development of improved disease-survey methods.

HAROLD F. BREIMYER, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For outstanding work in providing producers and feeders of beef cattle with basic understandable facts concerning complex economic problems confronting the livestock industry.

GRACE POPE BROWN, EXT; Dobson, N. C.: For outstanding ability in the development of leaders among farm people, and in imparting to others a high sense of value and sound judgment, thus furthering the educational objectives of the extension service.

SHAWNEE BROWN, EXT; Stillwater, Okla.: For leadership ability and inspiration to others in carrying out Oklahoma extension programs, resulting in more efficient and better balance of production and better marketing of farm products.

MARGUERITE C. BURK, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For accomplishments in measuring and analyzing food supplies and consumption, thereby providing a sound statistical base for appraising the Nation's food requirements.

CHARLES CHUPP, EXT; Ithaca, N. Y.: For effective extension teaching based on experience, study, and research to the end that permanent improvements of great benefit have been brought to vegetable growers.

RUTH RUSSELL CLARK, EXT; Storrs, Conn.: For foresight, careful planning, intensive training, and untiring efforts which have resulted in developing an outstanding local leader program in Connecticut.

HUGH K. CLIFTON, FHA; Jefferson, Ohio: For leadership with farm families in establishing systems of farming where the making of basic adjustments were necessary for successful results.

H. DEAN COCHRAN, FS; Milwaukee, Wis.: For notable accomplishments in

the field of human relations, and for vision and leadership in developing the Forest Service personnel program.

DR. GEORGE H. COONS, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For leadership and research contributions to the growing of sugar beets through development of disease-resistant varieties, and for foresight in stressing need to develop a sugar beet seed industry in the United States.

DENNIS F. COX, FHA; Ripley, W. Va.: For meritorious achievement in leadership and service to Farmers Home Administration families; and for achieving the State's best borrower repayment record.

LAWRENCE B. CRANN, REA; Washington, D. C.: For unusual ability in applying engineering knowledge, techniques, and analyses to the new and highly complex problems peculiar to rural electric systems.

LOWELL C. CUNNINGHAM, EXT; Ithaca, N. Y.: For vision, ingenuity, and perseverance in developing an outstanding educational program dealing with the economics of dairy farming.

RUTH CURRENT, EXT; Raleigh, N. C.: For unusual success in developing home demonstration lay leaders in the State of North Carolina, which is reflected through improved farming and better living in rural communities.

ARTHUR L. DEERING, EXT; Orono, Maine: For vision and leadership in providing and encouraging better facilities and opportunities for training Extension personnel.

MARIA MAGDALENA G. DE ROURA, EXT; Yauco, Puerto Rico: For unusual success in effective community action and in assisting rural families to adopt better home and farm practices, resulting in increased farm incomes and improved rural living.

GEORGE E. DILLON, REA; Washington, D. C.: For bringing about an understanding among farmers regarding effective electrical service through farmer cooperative organizations and Government-loan assistance.

DR. SAMSON R. DUTKY, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For isolating, describing, and working out the life history of the milky disease of Japanese beetle larvae, and perfecting the technique for commercial propagation of spore dust used in its biological control.

WILLIAM H. ELLIOTT, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For applying economic and industrial engineering research techniques to materials handling operations in agricultural marketing industries, which have brought about efficiencies of labor and equipment and reduced marketing costs.

WILLIAM O. FARNAM, JR., FHA; Atlanta, Ga.: For engineering accomplishments through dynamic leadership and ability in planning with and training Farmers Home Administration personnel regarding high-quality building construction on borrower farms.

DELBERT T. FOSTER, EXT; Donnellson, Iowa: For success in assisting farmers in Lee County, Iowa, to accept and adopt improved farming practices, especially improved pasture management.

SUSIE J. FRAZIER, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For developing, maintaining, and presenting statistical series on cotton and other fibers, which have contributed materially to an understanding of cotton price and marketing problems.

GEORGE E. FRICK, ARS; Durham, N. H.: For preparing and interpreting economic research results so as to facilitate their use by farmers in making their own farm management decisions.

ANNE L. GESSNER, FCS; Washington, D. C.: For resourcefulness and initiative in developing methods and procedures, which has led to the improvement of national statistics relating to farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives.

VERZ R. GODDARD, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For exceptional and exemplary pioneer work in planning, negotiating, and monitoring research contracts in foods and nutrition.

HAROLD L. GUNDERSON, EXT; Ames, Iowa: For superior leadership and effective instruction in insect and rodent pest control, thereby promoting maximum food and feed production and higher standards of health and sanitation.

ROLAND W. HAINES, ARS; Peoria, Ill.: For devising and adapting photographic methods and techniques to obtain accurate detailed pictures used in scientific studies.

RUTH ETHERIDGE HARRALSON, EXT; Louisville, Ky.: For unusual ability in organizing and teaching home economics extension work, and in developing leadership among homemakers to improve family living in rural and urban areas of Kentucky.

GEORGE H. HEPTING, FS; Asheville, N. C.: For highly productive personal work and leadership in research on diseases of forest trees, and on defects in wood, including important practical contributions to forest management and utilization.

STROTHER B. HERRELL, PERS; Washington, D. C.: For demonstrating vision and humanitarian leadership in the development and administration of personnel policies.

Distinguished Service Award Committee

DR. ALLEN V. ASTIN, Director, National Bureau of Standards.
 GEORGE M. MOORE, Commissioner, Civil Service Commission.
 ELMER B. STAATS, Executive Officer, Operations Coordinating Board.
 J. EARL COKE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.
 DR. GUIDO E. HILBERT, Director, Utilization Research, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture.
 JAMES L. BUCKLEY, Acting Director of Personnel, Department of Agriculture.

Superior Service Award Committee

DONALD E. CLARK, Regional Forester, Denver, Colo.
 PAUL V. KEPNER, Deputy Director, Federal Extension Service.
 CHARLES S. LAIDLAW, Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.
 STERLING R. NEWELL, Director, Agricultural Estimates Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.
 DR. HARRY C. TRELOGAN, Director, Marketing Research Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.
 BERLEY WINTON, Director, Regional Poultry Research Laboratory, East Lansing, Mich.
 JAMES L. BUCKLEY, Acting Director of Personnel, Department of Agriculture.

RYLAND H. HEWITT, FHA; Norwich, N. Y.: For success in helping borrowers make unusually difficult farming adjustments, resulting in increased earnings, higher living standards, greater security on the land, and generally improved agriculture in Chenango County.

LUCILLE HOLDSWORTH, FHA; Kerrville, Tex.: For extended meritorious service in a County Unit servicing as many as six counties, and for exceptional service in all phases of County Office work.

IRVIN HOLMES, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For conducting special vegetable surveys in the New York City market area to determine possible adaptations of scientific sampling methods to the problem of estimating acreage and producing commercial vegetables in local market areas.

DAVID E. HUTCHINSON, SCS; Lincoln, Nebr.: For exceptional leadership in developing methods of presenting a soil and water conservation program that resulted in its widespread adoption in eastern Nebraska.

LEO A. ISAAC, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For research that has gained for him worldwide recognition as the outstanding authority on Douglas-fir silviculture.

FRANK H. JETER, EXT; Raleigh, N. C.: For pioneering and developing an outstanding college editorial office which has kept rural people informed on agricultural developments, thereby greatly contributing to the success of Extension Service in the betterment of rural life.

CECIL JOHNSON, FHA; Groesbeck, Tex.: For unusual success in bringing about improved farming practices and establishing a good balance between crops and livestock on the farms of adjustment loan borrowers.

DOROTHY KEITH, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For unusual initiative and resourcefulness in performing assigned duties and developing improved work methods which have greatly facilitated the work of the Portland Office of the Forest Service.

E. SMITH KIMBALL, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For the development of statistical and reporting services relating to egg production, commercial broilers, and turkeys, which have been of inestimable value to the industry.

WILLIAM J. KREBS, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For work performance which contributed materially and significantly to successful animal and poultry husbandry research.

KARL C. LANGFIELD, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For unusually effective leadership in solving forest resource problems; and for uncanny ability to train and inspire subordinates in the highest ideals of the service.

AUBREY M. LEE, ARS; Washington, D. C.: For coordinating an important and difficult research project resulting in solving the problem of X-disease, or hyperkeratosis, of cattle, a disease of great economic importance, thereby saving several millions of dollars annually.

HERBERT H. LESTER, SCS; Jackson, Miss.: For meritorious leadership in developing a plan for an initiating a program of effective soil conservation and erosion control.

E. S. MATTESON, EXT; Columbia, Mo.: For influencing farmers to adopt better livestock and improved cropping practices, which has contributed to better prices and to fitting the livestock enterprise into Missouri's balanced farming system.

HELEN MORSE, EXT; Harrisonville, Mo.: For ability in leading and inspiring rural people to adopt sound farm and home practices which have contributed to better family living and good community life.

ROBERT H. NELSON, CSS; College Station, Tex.: For leadership and creativeness in the development and successful administration of the Castor Bean Production and Procurement Program in Texas.

U. J. NORGAARD, EXT; Brookings, S. Dak.: For meritorious accomplishments in seed improvement and in motivating farm people to adopt better crop produc-

tion and management practices resulting in improved farm incomes and better family living.

ROBERT E. NORRIS, EXT; Tavares, Fla.: For unusual success in the planning and execution of an agricultural program for Lake County, Florida, which has resulted in the development of the county's resources and its people.

ALVIS Z. OWEN, FS; Gloster, Miss.: For superior performance in the planning and execution of a large and difficult insect control project coincident with the organization and effective operation of a new ranger district.

DR. FRED W. POOS, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For leadership and research which resulted in or formed the basis for practical control measures for many destructive field crop insects especially those on legumes and grasses grown for seed and forage.

CHARLIE E. POWELL, FS; Moscow, Idaho: For exceptional planning, organization, and leadership in the successful management of the Palouse Ranger District of the St. Joe National Forest.

LEWIS MARTIN RANDLE, FHA; West Point, Miss.: For meritorious leadership with Farmers Home Administration borrowers, which resulted in greatly improved farming, better living, and more security for farm families.

D. IRVIN RASMUSSEN, FS; Ogden, Utah: For valuable contributions in practical management of wildlife resources through application of scientific knowledge and a cooperative approach with State agencies and other public and private groups.

WILSON A. REEVES, ARS; New Orleans, La.: For discovering a new class of phosphorus-containing polymers and for inventing a new flameproofing process for cotton.

RAMON RIVERA-BERMUDEZ, EXT; Coamo, Puerto Rico: For remarkable success in the execution of programs that have resulted in major improvement of farm and home lives in rural and urban areas; leadership development and initiative in establishing programs for community improvement.

J. PARKER RODGERS, EXT; Higginsville, Mo.: For success in directing a program of balanced farming thereby greatly increasing net farm income, making for better family living, and providing greater security on the land.

CHARLIE L. SHOPE, FS; Franklin, N. C.: For skill and efficiency in obtaining climatic and hydrologic data by overcoming field difficulties in the continuous operation of more than 100 recording instruments without a failure during 1953.

GEORGE W. SIDWELL, EXT; Wakeeney, Kans.: For inspiring rural people to help themselves by using improved farming practices resulting in increased income, and stimulating interest in youth development through 4-H clubs.

DOROTHY N. STEPHENS, EXT; Boise, Idaho: For unusual success in teaching women the arts of homemaking and in encouraging them to lead their own clubs in an expanding program for the educational enrichment of all farm women in Ada County.

DELMA S. STEWART, FHA; Benton, Ark.: For rendering invaluable assistance to Farmers Home Administration borrower families through exceptional efficiency in handling applicants and processing forms and documents.

CALVIN B. STOTT, FS; Milwaukee, Wis.: For initiative, and leadership in adapting improved techniques and procedures for forest management, and accomplishments in getting industry and the States to improve forest management on their lands.

ERNEST L. STRUTTMANN, ARS; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional leadership in developing and guiding the financial policy, as well as developing the budget and financial structure and organization for the new Agricultural Research Service.

WARD L. VANDER GRIEND, FHA; Lynden, Wash.: For meritorious service to Whatcom County farm families through effective development of rural water associations, and able administration of an exceptionally heavy county unit work program.

CATHERINE M. VIEHMANN, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For unusual skill in developing editorial techniques to improve readability, accuracy, and usefulness of marketing publications; for training writers of publications to apply principles of effective and economical presentation of material.

HAROLD R. WALKER, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For significant contributions to the effective interpretation and use of the monthly crop reports by developing clear, accurate, and concise monthly summaries of United States crop conditions.

LAWRENCE J. WASHINGTON, FHA; Washington, D. C.: For unusual success in coordinating the facilities of public and private institutions to meet basic problems of Farmers Home Administration borrower groups.

MIRIAM H. WARLICK, FHA; Jackson, Tenn.: For exceptional service to supervisors in organization of work; exemplary record in interpretation and appli-

cation of procedures; and meritorious accomplishment in execution of duties.

HAROLD L. WARNER, FHA; Topeka, Kans.: For superior performance in the training of Farmers Home Administration employees to help borrower families plan and obtain sound and economic construction of farm homes and buildings.

DON C. WARREN, ARS; Lafayette, Ind.: For improving poultry production through the development of more efficient breeding techniques especially by stimulating leadership in establishing and operating the supplementary breeding study using *Drosophila* to work out breeding problems and complex genetic patterns.

ELMO J. WHITE, INF; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious contributions to American agriculture in the development of art and graphic presentations in the publications programs of the Department.

CARL ANTON WICKLUND, EXT; Independence, Ky.: For originality and unbounded energy in attaining outstanding progress in agriculture, and for superior organizational and teaching ability, contributing to better rural life and excellent rural-urban relationships.

JOHN R. WINSTON, AMS; Orlando, Fla.: For notable research accomplishments which have made it possible to reduce the losses of citrus fruits during shipment, storage and marketing, and to improve the quality of the fruit marketed.

Unit*

COOPERATIVE FOREST FIRE PREVENTION UNIT, FS; Washington, D. C.: For achievements in developing and conducting a nationwide cooperative educational program of State and Federal forestry agencies for reducing man-caused forest fires thereby conserving forest and other natural resources.

DELTA WORK UNIT, SCS; Delta, Utah: For development of a widely accepted, well-rounded conservation program for a semiarid area, involving particularly successful methods of water control and use in saline soils.

EDUCATIONAL AIDS AND INFORMATION DIVISION, EXT; Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico: For providing Extension personnel with easily understood informational material of invaluable assistance in securing better, more productive farm and home practices in Puerto Rico.

FOOD TRADES BRANCH, FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION, AMS; Washington, D. C.: For initiating, stimulating, and coordinating industry-government merchandising programs on honey and beef to

bring about increased sales and consumption of these foods.

FOREST FIRE FIGHTING UNIT OF THE ZUNI INDIAN PUEBLO, FS; Zuni, N. Mex.: For meritorious service as unusually skillful, hardy and courageous fire-fighting crews whose efforts saved valuable natural resources in the mountain forest areas of the West.

FOREST FIRE RESEARCH DIVISION, FS; Missoula, Mont.: For significant contributions toward more effective forest fire control, aggressive conduct of fire research under substantial handicaps, and development of successful cooperative research with state and private agencies.

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS, WORK UNIT, SCS; Garden City, Kans.: For perfecting a practical and economical method of revegetating sandy land subject to severe wind erosion while at the same time carrying out a complex technical program on irrigated land.

LIQUEFIED-GAS AEROSOL PROJECT, ARS; Beltsville, Md.: For cooperative research resulting in the development of highly efficient liquefied gas aerosol formulations and equipment for the control of insects harmful to agriculture and public health.

MAPLE INVESTIGATIONS RESEARCH GROUP, ARS; Wyndmoor, Pa.: For organizing, developing, and publicizing a simple, inexpensive and effective process for greatly intensifying the flavor of pure maple sirup, thus leading to the development of new and improved maple products and superior maple blends.

PEAR CANNERY WASTE PROJECT, ARS; Albany, Calif.: For developing and demonstrating a successful commercial process and new processing equipment for utilizing pear cannery waste through conversion to molasses and pomace products.

SEED TESTING SECTION, SEED BRANCH, GRAIN DIVISION, AMS; Beltsville, Md.: For compiling the first complete manual on seed testing, which facilitates the work in Federal, State, and commercial laboratories throughout the United States.

STORAGE PROGRAM FUNCTIONS, NAVAL STORES BRANCH, TOBACCO DIVISION, CSS; Washington, D. C.: For developing improved packing, storage, inventory, and security practices for the protection of rosin and turpentine stocks, resulting in reduced marketing costs.

TEXAS STATE GARAGE, SCS; Waco, Tex.: For establishing an exceptional record in maintaining automotive equipment for the Soil Conservation Service in the State of Texas on an efficient, economical, and safe basis.

* Unit awards to be made at a later date at unit headquarters.

Seeing the USDA job

THE DEPARTMENT Orientation program for Washington area personnel, held April 20 at the auditorium, attracted 200 people, largely new employees. Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary; S. B. Herrell, Assistant Director of the Office of Personnel; and Chairman E. R. Draheim, also of Personnel, made brief talks. The ever-interesting motion picture "A Decision for Bill," was shown. Lu Gibbons, of Personnel, had charge of arrangements. Following the program, a number of groups were conducted through communications centers in the Department.

Mr. Roberts told the gathering that the Department had been recently reorganized to more effectively serve the public. USDA work is done through people, and all employees need to know their Department and to be able to deal with other people, in person, over the telephone, and in writing letters in the central office or in the field. The service given the public is the sum total of the kind of service given by each employee. Interested, courteous well-informed employees who take pride in their work inspire public confidence. He congratulated the new employees on accepting their responsibilities and learning as much as possible about the organization and activities of the Department.

Mr. Herrell presented a "visualization of USDA personnel policy" in color slides.

The salty earth

TO MANY in the East the amount of salt in the soil may not seem important, but to those who farm in the western half of the United States, the question, "How much salt?" is vital. Publication of the new Agriculture Handbook No. 60, Diagnosis and Improvement of Saline and Alkali Soils, is therefore of unusual interest to many. The information in the publication was first put out in multilithed form in 1947 and distributed in many parts of the world. The serviceable new book is well illustrated and contains many formulas and charts and several chapters of practical procedures and measuring methods. It is the joint output of the staff of the United States Salinity Laboratory, at Riverside, Calif.

This laboratory is part of the Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch, ARS. Investigations were carried on with close cooperation between the laboratory and the agricultural experiment stations of the 17 Western States and

Hawaii. Director H. E. Hayward indicates that the nomenclature of the problems of alkalinity and salinity is still in a formative stage. A glossary of special terms is included for the convenience of the user. The handbook may be had from the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D. C., for \$2.

Career Service praised

CAREER-SERVICE employees of the Department were given due credit for their part in the great achievements of American agriculture, by Representative Clifford R. Hope, who addressed the 25th Anniversary dinner of OPEDA, April 23. More than 200 members heard the speaker at the Department cafeteria.

"The professional touch" he said "is needed more so now than ever before because agriculture is confronted with problems more complex and technical than it has ever faced in the past; and because agriculture as an industry is split into millions of widely scattered individual segments, it must depend upon government to assume the responsibility for research and education and to furnish the professional personnel for that purpose. It can't be done in any other way." He added "I think it is well to have effective organizations which can speak for the Government employees and place their case before the public and Congress."

After 27 years in close touch with Government activities and people he said he had reached the conclusion "that there is no more honest, loyal, hard-working, dedicated, and able group in our Nation than the career employees of the Federal Government. . . . The professional staff of the Department in the years gone by contains the names of some of the most eminent figures which this Nation has produced in the fields of forestry, conservation, economics, education, and scientific work in all of its phases."

He expressed gratification over the efforts which Secretary Benson and his associates are making to expand markets at home and abroad and the constructive consolidation of the marketing agencies in the reorganization of the Department.

B and T eradication

Statistical tables showing progress in the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis of livestock in the United States and Territories for fiscal year 1953 are available from the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Division, Agricultural Research Service. Cattle reactors in 1953 stood at 0.11 percent for tuberculosis and 3.4 percent for brucellosis, national total averages.

Length of Service Awards

The following employees received citations for forty or more years of service in Agriculture as of May 15, 1954.

*AYERS, A. TAW, ARS, Salisbury, Md.; *BALLOU, HARRISON B., ARS, Albany, N. Y.; *BLAIR, R. EUGENE, AMS, Sacramento, Calif.; *BLAKE, CLYDE D., FS (ret.), Hamilton, Mont.; *BLOODGOOD, DEAN W. A., ARS, Austin, Tex.; *BLUM, HENRY, ARS, New York, N. Y.; BREWER, ELISHA, ARS, Beltsville, Md.; *BROWN, CATHERINE I., ARS, Hoboken, N. J.; *CAMPBELL, ROY E., ARS, Whittier, Calif.; CARTER, CHARLES L., ARS, Beltsville, Md.; CASH, EDITH K., ARS, Beltsville, Md.; *CELAYA, OPHELIA, ARS (ret.), Tempe, Ariz.; *CHING, AH FOOK, ARS, Honolulu, T. H.; *CHISHOLM, LEO V., ARS, New York, N. Y.; *CULVER, HARVEY H., ARS, Memphis, Tenn.

DEAN, LAWRENCE M., ARS, Washington, D. C.; *ELLEFSON, HILDERS, ARS, Boston, Mass.; *EVENDEN, JAMES C., FS, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; *FRY, HUGH L., ARS, Nashville, Tenn.; *FUNK, ALEXANDER C., ARS, Kansas City, Kans.; GOTT, ANNA E., ARS, Beltsville, Md.; GRIFFIN, EDWARD L., ARS, Washington, D. C.; *GROVE, CHARLES H., ARS, Seattle, Wash.; *HOLBROOK, JOHN E. R., FS, Upper Darby, Pa.; HUNEKE, CELICIA, ARS, Washington, D. C.; HUTCHINS, LEE M., FS, Washington, D. C.; *JACOBI, BRUNO A., ARS, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

JOHNSON, JOHN W., SEC, Washington, D. C.; *JONES, DETTMAR W., ARS, Moorestown, N. J.; *KURTZ, ABBIE K., ARS, Chicago, Ill.; *LINDER, FRED F., ARS, Indianapolis, Ind.; *LUCHSINGER, ALBERT W., ARS, Kansas City, Kans.; *MONTGOMERY, ALBERT E., ARS Cincinnati, Ohio; *MOOTZ, CHARLES E., ARS, Philadelphia, Pa.; *MORRIS, CHARLES E., ARS, Albany, N. Y.; *MYERS, IRVIN, ARS, Tallahassee, Fla.; *NEWCOMER, ERVAL J., ARS, Yakima, Wash.; *OSBORN, ALBERT C., ARS, Frankfort, Ind.; *RICHARDSON, CHARLES E., ARS, Jefferson City, Mo.; *RIES, SABIN L., ARS, Mason City, Iowa; ROARK, RURIC C., ARS, Beltsville, Md.; *SCHULER, CLARENCE A., ARS, Kinston, N. C.; *SEAMANS, ARTHUR E., ARS, Huntley, Mont.; *SEAY, ALBERT, ARS, Cleveland, Ohio; *SINGER, HENRY O., ARS, Chicago, Ill.; SNIDER, GEORGE G., ARS, Beltsville, Md.; *THEOBALD, FRANK E., ARS, Dayton, Ohio; URNER, JESSIE, ARS (ret.), Beltsville, Md.; *WILLIAMS, WILLIAM S., FS, San Francisco, Calif.; *WINKLER, GEORGE W., ARS, Indianapolis, Ind.; *WYNNE, FORREST F., ARS, South St. Joseph, Mo.

*To be awarded at official headquarters.

Science has the answers

SCIENCE WILL continue to be the main source of answers to the basic problems of agriculture, according to Willard M. Fifield of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. Basic research on hybrid vigor that resulted in hybrid corn outweighed the numerous profitable experiments on corn fertilizers, he points out. In this case the basic research paid off better than the applied research, in the long run.

Last year the citrus station workers discovered that the small nematode burrowing at the roots was literally "at the bottom" of citrus tree decline. The director looks to science to find an answer to this and other so-far unsolved problems. Basic research is "a systematic study of the underlying causes of some of the things we observe but cannot explain." Most experiment station work is applied research, which is aimed at solving practical problems directly, and translating the results into use by the grower and into dollars-and-cents value. Yet when we talk of chemical fertilizers and new selective herbicides, we are dealing with things that have been discovered through basic research. In fact, however, most of the experimentation carried on by the USDA and the State experiment stations is "committed research." That is, it is study set up with definite practical purpose, usually to solve problems that have already arisen. Dr. Fifield remarks:

"If we were to hold a field day and show you an experiment where we were purposely trying to keep potato plants from setting tubers or beans from making fruit, you might think we were off the beam. And yet, maybe such an experiment—not in place of our other work, but in addition to it—might give us some answer to questions we can't answer today."

B. B. Bayles dies in Beirut

Burton B. Bayles, principal agronomist, Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Field Crops Branch of ARS, died in Beirut, Lebanon, April 21. Dr. Bayles was on his way to Damascus to attend an FAO conference on improvement of grain crops in the Near East area. Graduated in Agriculture from Kansas State College, Dr. Bayles took his Ph. D. at Wisconsin University, and joined the Cereals and Crops Division 32 years ago. He was stationed at Moro, Oreg., then at Moccasin, Mont., and came to Washington about 25 years ago.

Dr. Bayles did outstanding work in wheat breeding for yield and resistance to diseases. He also held the job of Coordinator of Eastern Wheat Research. He is survived by his wife and two sons and a daughter. The younger son is attending Cornell University.

Brief and choice

Milk for the thirsty

The Office of Plant and Operations is out to increase dairy products consumption. A late-model milk-vending machine has been ordered for the central duplicating plant in the fifth wing, South Building. The plant's 100-odd employees invite everybody to come for a cold drink of "nature's best." The USDA Welfare Association and General Services are cooperating in installing additional machines at convenient points throughout the Department buildings.

Home week brings joy to many

A quarter million Negro farm homes have been improved in construction, maintenance, diet of the family, care of the children, or in family relations as a result of the Extension Service home demonstration program, USDA announced National Home Demonstration Week, May 2-8. A million and a half rural women, including 129,000 colored homemakers, joined in the Week's program to call attention to their achievements and to benefits gained through membership in home demonstration clubs. Hundreds of farm agents and home agents and some 25,000 volunteer leaders in the Southern States reached 54,000 Negro homes last year.

Work on hybrid cotton

Strict hybridization of cotton on a large scale is difficult and expensive, according to D. M. Simpson, cotton breeder, of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. More practical results probably can be had from natural crossing by bees and other insects that carry cotton pollen from flower to flower. In some parts of Tennessee natural crossing normally amounts to 30 percent or more, up to 60 percent between some varieties. To obtain greater benefits of hybrid vigor, natural crossing should be at a high level. That would mean choice of parental lines that would combine to produce a successful hybrid, and presumably the employment of more bees. Although three methods of test-plot hybrid seed production have been proved effective, the problem of economical seed production has not yet been solved.

Poona U. prints USDA story

The Poona Agricultural College Magazine of Poona, India, for November 1953, contains an article on "Soil Water Conservation Halts the 'Dust Bowl' in U. S." The article and illustrations were furnished the magazine by USDA. The attractive India publication deals also with "service societies" (like groups using hay-drying machinery), foreign and domestic policies, and a prize essay, "The Role of Agriculture in the Modern World." The ancient college motto is: "Agriculture at the service of man."

Defense group named

On Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts general responsibility has been placed for the development and maintenance of plans to insure continuity of essential functions of the Department in the event of attack on the United States. To assist in carrying out that objective he has named the following committee: N. Robert Bear, Office of Personnel; Ralph Koebel, Office of the Solicitor; Terry J. McAdams, Office of Plant and Operations; John Wells, Office of Budget and Finance; and F. R. Mangham, Office of Plant and Operations, chairman.

Schafer to head Personnel

MACHENRY G. SCHAFFER, of Chicago, will become Director of Personnel for the Department, June 1. His appointment was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, May 6. He will fill the position formerly held by Dr. T. Roy Reid who became Director of the Graduate School March 1.

Mr. Schafer has for 20 years been associated with the Northern Trust Company where he became vice president and director of employee relations. He was also president of the Industrial Relations Association of Chicago and a teacher of job instructor training for the American Institute of Banking, and was active in the College Placement Association, the American Management Association, and other groups. He holds degrees from the University of Chicago and did advanced work in the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

Grasshopper threat

The predicted "grasshopper year" may warrant large-scale control programs in areas of many of the Western States, and in sections of the North Central States. Surveys showed increasing buildups in southeastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas, southern Iowa, central Wisconsin, and all of Missouri, at the end of March. State offices are cooperating with the Plant Pest Control Branch in the surveys. Urgent need for organized control methods are reported from north-central New Mexico, south-central Idaho, and the panhandle areas of Texas and Oklahoma.

The cinch bug holds some threats east and south of the grasshopper areas. European corn borer infestation is heavy in spots in the Corn Belt, and the borer has moved as far west as Wyoming. United States farmers' losses from corn borer in 1953 were estimated at \$125,000,000. Boll weevil survivals were kept low in some southern areas by the fall drought. Beet leafhoppers seem to have been held in check by the winter.

Using wild tobacco

The possibilities that lie in surer, quicker, and more economical utilization of the valuable characters in wild tobacco species are described in a statement by Dr. E. E. Clayton, plant pathologist, ARS. For details, write to USDA Editor and ask for No. 2215.

Melons in prospect

More late watermelons are in prospect this year. The Crop Reporting Board says this is indicated by "intentions" reports of the growers. Cantaloupe crops in the South and the West are generally rather promising, and Texas has jumped its planting by 46 percent.

Parade of Progress

THE COUNTRY owes a double debt of gratitude to those physically handicapped in performance of military duty. One obligation is to the men and women who have made sacrifices in the cause of national safety, the other is for the sterling services of so many of these people now active in the professions, in industry, and in governmental offices. President Eisenhower's Committee for the Employment of the Physically Handicapped, of which Secretary of Agriculture Benson is a Federal associate member, and the District Commissioners' Committee jointly sponsored the Exposition and Parade of Progress on Rehabilitation and Employment of the Physically Handicapped, at the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, April 28-30. Department employees joined at the noon hour with thousands of others who thronged the auditorium to meet personally a number of men and women who have gone through courses of rehabilitation, and to study exhibits demonstrating the progress they have achieved.

The first formal meeting was addressed by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Oveta Culp Hobby. Several other cabinet members were in attendance. Later, meetings were addressed by Vice President Nixon, Bernard Baruch, Secretary of Labor Mitchell, John V. Riffe, executive vice president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and others. A Distinguished Service Award was presented by the Saturday Evening Post, and an information panel was conducted by Bruce Barton, president of the Institute for the Crippled and the Disabled. Mrs. Hobby stressed the importance to the country * * * "that injured and handicapped people should be given every advantage in their fight to return to their position as participating members of our society."

Alerted by the Office of Personnel, many employing officers of Department agencies made special visits to a concentrated group of disabled veterans and others to observe the skill with which they tackled such jobs as typing, operating calculating machines, grinding lenses, testing and repairing watches, sewing, weaving, and the assembling and operation of shop machinery. Demonstrations of the serviceability of new-model artificial legs and hands was astonishing. Teams from Armed Services hospitals and the Veterans' Administration showed methods by which so much is done in the way of rehabilitation.

Hopeful and attractive people, equipped with the latest prosthetic devices, showed themselves able to hold their own in many occupations with the best mechanical and professional workers. There were also active patients beating back to health with the aid of therapy.

Disabled veterans assembled identification blanks, and displayed a bushel of keys found and identified by their tags, ready for return to the losers. A man with his faithful seeing-eye dog beside him, took a recording of proceedings in the auditorium. Some 50 exhibitors from over the country showed scores of occupational aids for the handicapped. Labor organizations illustrated their own rehabilitation plans. Quite a few of the handicapped interviewed expressed a preference for work in some branch of local or national government.

Nash Awards to 3 USDA men

Two members of the Forest Service were among those chosen to receive this year's Nash Conservation Awards, presented by the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation for outstanding contributions in the field conservation of natural resources. They were: Dr. Charles R. Hursch, of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, cited "for his outstanding research in the relation of soil and forest vegetation to streamflow and his establishment of a world-recognized hydrologic laboratory at Dillard, Ga.," and Charles A. Rindt, Division of Timber Management, Portland, Oreg., "for his important contributions to forestry practice, including development of techniques for long-term tree seed storage and cold storage of nursery stock."

Verne E. Davison, SCS biologist, of Spartanburg, S. C., one of the top winners of Nash Conservation Awards, seems determined to make wildlife happy. He is credited with outstanding leadership in conservation including: "development of lands and waters for specific game species, such as, plants to feed mourning doves; high yielding food for ducks on wet lands; widgeon-grass duck ponds; winter-grazing plants for deer, wild turkey, and geese; and minimum cover plants for each on various soils, on cropland, pastures, and woodlands."

Award to Dr. Coons

George H. Coons, principal pathologist in the Department's Sugar Plant Investigations, has an award certificate received from the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists at their recent annual meeting at Denver, Colo. It was given "for faithful and devoted service to the beet sugar industry of America," and is rounded out with the following paragraph: "With your efforts in this field of activity, the industry has continued to reach new heights in its usefulness to the Nation. You have, through the untiring labor of your own hands, in the ideas you have contributed, and by the inspiration of your courage, diligence, and faith in the future, played an important part in the development of the industry that now proudly pays honor to you."

Track of the hunter

In reporting on the hunting season in Delta National Forest, Miss., District Ranger Herbert Rice gives the statistics for 2 counties as follows: 16 deer, 35 forest fires.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agriculture Marketing Service: Machiko N. Ota, secretary (stenography), San Francisco, Calif.; Herman B. Swett, processed fruit and vegetable Inspector, Boston, Mass.

Commodity Stabilization Service: Harold G. Davis, tabulating equipment operation supervisor, Minneapolis, Minn.

Farmers Home Administration: Iris E. Howard, clerk-typist, Ontario, Oreg.

Office of Personnel: Henry Wethers, messenger, Washington, D. C.

Office of Plant and Operations: Joseph D. Jones, photographers' assistant, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: William F. Bobo, Jr., cartographic photogrammetric aid, Spartanburg, S. C.; Joseph B. Brown, soil scientist, Brighton, Colo.; Warren C. Holt, soil conservationist, Mayfield, Ky.; Roland R. Kneese, cartographic draftsman, Spartanburg, S. C.; Irving H. Stewart, soil conservationist, Palmetto, Fla.; David R. Walden, soil conservationist, Thompsonville, Ky.

Dr. Trullinger visits Hawaii

Assistant Administrator R. W. Trullinger for the Office of Experiment Stations went to the West Coast and Hawaii late in April. He made the official visit and review of Federal-grant and other research at the Hawaii Experiment Station. He planned also to attend the Western Experiment Stations Directors meeting in Las Cruces, N. Mex., May 19-21.

Breeding better cotton

William P. Sappenfield, New Mexico geneticist, has been named cotton breeder for California and the Southwest as a joint appointee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the University of California. Dr. Sappenfield, who has been breeding new cotton varieties at New Mexico Agricultural and Mechanical College, began work March 1 at the USDA Southwest Irrigation Field Station at Brawley. He will use also the facilities of the U. S. Cotton Field Station at Shafter, and the university's Meloland station near El Centro. The joint appointment will help to bring about an integrated research program on cotton for California and the Southwest. Dr. Sappenfield received his doctorate in genetics from the University of Missouri.

Battled rust for 25 years

Dr. Leonard W. Melander, USDA plant pathologist and specialist in grain rusts, stationed at the University of Minnesota, at St. Paul, has retired after directing barberry eradication measures in Minnesota for 25 years, and nursery sanitation and chemical experimentation in 18 States for 10 years. He is now a research director in the paint industry.

Mountain Plant Manual

A manual for identification of Plants in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and neighboring States was recently completed by H. D. Harrington, associate professor of botany at Colorado A. and M. The book is planned for use by students and Government workers. It describes 2,791 species and 351 subspecies. Sage Books, Denver, is the publisher.

It can't happen to me!

THE SAFETY Council of the Department is pushing plans to participate in Farm Safety Week, July 25-31, proclaimed by President Eisenhower, and called to Department-wide attention in a statement by Secretary Benson. The Secretary suggested last year that an effort be made to cut the farm accident rate in half by 1963, and he asks for redoubled efforts in 1954. There were 6,000 accidental deaths among farmers last year, and almost countless less serious accidents. The Council points out that it has been possible to reduce consistently accidents to industrial and public employees, and that it should be feasible to do as much for the farmers.

Theodore S. Gold, Assistant to Under Secretary True D. Morse, invited to meet with the Safety Council April 21, took part in the discussion of means to push ahead with farm safety measures. Mr. Gold, who operates a dairy farm in Connecticut, gave an interesting account of farm management that at all times takes safety into consideration. The human element that contributes to accidents on the highway and in the factory operates on the farm, too. "It can't happen to me" is the attitude of most of us and makes us prone to take unwarranted risks. In promoting safety and personal attitudes toward safety, he made clear his belief that example works better than slogans. Even traffic signs are not always seen or heeded. But if men are convinced by example that their leaders are safety-minded they are more likely to take sensible precautions themselves. We can help to direct a man's thinking; and we may steer "human nature," but would be foolish to try to dam it up.

USDA meets the editors

THE NEWSPAPER Farm Editors Association held its annual meeting in Washington, May 3-5. The editors headed by the president, Bill Durham of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, attended the Secretary's Monday press conference. Many of the information officers of the Department were present with the editors at a luncheon in the Department cafeteria. Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke addressed the meeting.

The general sessions on May 3 and 4 heard Under Secretary True D. Morse and other Department officials. R. L. Webster, Director of Information, spoke on information organization. Ernest G. Moore (ARS) discussed research infor-

mation and M. R. Clarkson (ARS) reviewed the more important research projects at Beltsville. James A. McConnell (CSS) spoke on grain storage problems. D. A. Williams (SCS) discussed the full farm planning project as carried out in certain pilot counties. Wilbur Carlson (FAS) spoke at the conference on disposal of dairy products under the new price support program. Herman Miller (AMS) discussed recent shifts in poultry production, and L. B. Nelson (ARS) presented new knowledge about fertilizer for efficient production.

40 years work for farm people

Archie K. Robertson, FHA, of Goldsboro, N. C., after 40 years of service with this and other units of USDA, applied for retirement as of April 30. Mr. Robertson was successively assistant State club agent, county agent of Wayne County, Emergency Crop Loan officer, and FHA supervisor, constantly on the go. The Robertsons retirement party was featured in the local paper, with a photo of the cake-cutting. He writes: "The years have been filled with opportunities and enjoyment in working with and for the benefit of farm people."

Yearbook outstanding

Plant Diseases, the 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture, has been named one of the 45 outstanding textbooks of 1953 by the American Institute of Graphic Arts. Last year *Insects*, the 1952 Yearbook, won a similar honor. In the competition 46 American publishers submitted 228 of their best publications. The winning volumes will be announced and discussed at a dinner of the Textbook Clinic of AIGA in New York May 26 and thereafter will be placed on exhibition. The exhibit later will be sent on tour throughout the United States. Alfred Steferud is editor of the Yearbooks.

The jury that selected the winners was instructed to be concerned primarily with "artistic and physical excellence, artistic conception and cohesion of the whole, overall fitness of the books as examples of the graphic arts, and literary quality and educational content as they relate to overall design and production."

Ferrer dies in Puerto Rico

Manuel Edward Ferrer, 57, of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, Caribbean Area Office, at San Juan, P. R., died April 1, 1954, at his home in Miramar. Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., he received a B. S. degree in Sugar Agronomy from Louisiana State University, in 1924. He was a member of the Chemists Association and the Society of Agronomists in Puerto Rico. For 20 years Dr. Ferrer was connected with the Department of Agriculture as an Extension Soil Conservationist with the Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service, lately as an Agricultural Conservation Program Specialist in the area ASC Office. His articles on soil conservation were widely published. He served in the Army in World War I, and joined the USDA staff in 1934.

Farm employment gains

There were a million more people at work on farms at the end of March than there were a month earlier, a seasonal figure. The number was about 2 percent less than for the same period last year, AMS reports.

Thoughts in season

THE OLD Almanac is still in business; and at odd times and places in any State in the Union we still may run into an old-fashioned moon farmer who plants his pole beans in the "up" sign to make sure they will climb. Now we can tell you without prejudice about the book "Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life, 1640-1840." It is published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa., 1950. (You can borrow it from USDA Library.) Moon farming starts on page 340.

Where there is no organized scientific work or research, people come to depend upon their own experience, tradition, or superstition. Tradition often looks back a thousand years, whereas modern science may call for new methods with this year's crop.

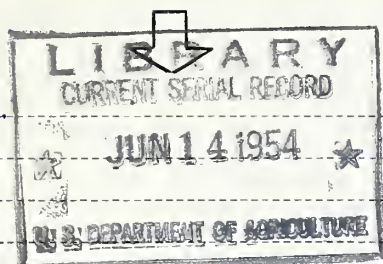
Superstition can be layered on thick—we see a new moon standing on end, and some of us react habitually, saying: "We are in for a dry spell." If the moon is flat of its back, the cup is full and rain in sight. It's a poor time to fix the roof; if the moon points are up, shingles will curl. Watermelons, planted in light of the moon, run all to vine. Root crops are to be planted in the dark of the moon. People who sold a good cow 100 years ago kept a lock of her hair so that good luck would not depart with her from the farm. In 1750—and later—a man cut brush in the August sun when the old moon was in the sign of the Heart. And you just might remember a fiercely defended belief that wheat could turn to cheat. Yet the explanation was simple, weather or disease caused the wheat to fail and the cheat grew high.

A good new idea, a practical research finding, a great discovery, deserves the greatest care in its presentation, for it is bound to fetch up against both practical and sentimental resistance. Old beliefs die hard and some who make fun of them are themselves holding onto sentimental reservations. Used to be a water witch!

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JUNE 2, 1954

Cutting crop risk

ABOUT THIS time of year sales agents of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA, are dusting off their briefcases, preparing for another annual go-around of door knocking in winter-wheat areas where the insurance program operates. They'll be calling upon growers not now covered and citing to them the virtues and good business practice of protecting wheat-crop investments against destructive forces and creatures of nature. That's what this crop-insurance program is all about.

You might liken Federal all-risk crop insurance to a bridge spanning the uncertain gap between the planting and the harvesting of a crop. You've seen ruined fields, where all hope of a harvest was gone. Crop insurance fits into the picture here—not with a substitute for the vanished or damaged crop, but with a cash settlement that removes a lot of the sting. The farmer gets enough to hold things together for another year, or to prevent loss of profits made in other years.

Because of the higher costs of producing a crop today, investment protection looms larger in importance than ever before. Income is greater, true, when everything clicks. But the farmer who loses his "cash expenses" nowadays suffers a body blow. Between the seeding and the harvest, there are hazards of plant disease, bugs, drought, flood, hail, frost, and excessive rain and winds, to name but a few of them. Any one of them can bring disaster to the best-laid cropping plans. A Federal all-risk policy stands out against all these natural enemies.

Crop insurance differs from most of the other things the farmer buys in that the most enthusiastic policyholder always hopes he will never have to make use of it. It's like a fire extinguisher in that respect, or like plasma in a blood bank. It is a protective measure, a safety device. If the farmer does have occasion to use it, he may need it badly. In extreme cases, when the insured crops are totally lost, the policy can spell the difference between survival and ruin.

Buying on time

"I would suggest that you get one thing at a time," says a banker writing on getting and using credit, for *Farm Finance*, published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. "Recently a man came to us for a loan. He was paying for cows, for a tractor, for a television set, for a barn cleaner, and for shingle sidewalls on the house. His five payments totaled \$255.75. We declined his invitation to make it six."

Administrative objectives

NEARLY 100 OPEDA members at Beltsville met at the Log Cabin Cafeteria for luncheon, May 11. USDA Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts discussed problems and objectives relating to Department employees. Ralph Sherman, ARS, and Walt Dutton, Executive officer, reported on progress and plans of OPEDA.

Newly elected members of the executive committee and officers were announced and introduced. Four former presidents were recognized: Carleton R. Ball, D. A. Spencer, B. A. Porter, and B. R. Stauber.

In discussing the relationships of the new office of Administrative Assistant Secretary to all elements of the Department, Mr. Roberts quoted from the report of the Hoover Commission, which described the position as one to carry out "... administrative duties of a housekeeping and management nature ... and [to] give continuity to top management." He also cited a recommendation by William A. Jump in 1940 that such a position be created as a contribution to "stabilizing the quality of public administration." The office came into being July 14, 1953. Mr. Roberts added:

"I think I may say from recent experience that there is at a time of changing administrations a genuine and vital need for effective measures to bring about mutual understanding between new policy-makers and those who administer, on a career basis, the continuing programs of the Government. Equally important is the need for ready availability of information, advice and competence to deal with top level administrative problems that inevitably arise in such transitional periods.

"Similarly, the post of Administrative Assistant Secretary provides a focal point for contacts with other Departments and

agencies of the Executive Branch on management matters of Government-wide and general interest. In the Immediate Office of the Secretary, closer liaison on administrative matters is a natural consequence."

Mr. Roberts discussed research and education in 1955, adequacy of work inspection and audit programs, and important pending improvements in personnel administration. The Agricultural Appropriation Bill, which has passed the House, includes an increase of \$19,982,000 for additional research and education. The policy of the Department is to strengthen research and educational work, both at the Federal level and at the State Colleges, in an effort to, in the long run, solve many of the difficult problems that face agriculture at the present time. Of this total increase, about \$13,000,000 would be paid to the State Extension Services and State Experiment Stations, and \$7,000,000 used for new or expanded work in the Department itself. Administrators have the duty of seeing to it that every dollar is spent in the most effective manner possible, Mr. Roberts said. Work plans, goals, and objectives must be developed and clearly understood.

In selection of persons to fill vacant positions, he urged that employers determine that preappointment inquiries are completed before appointment processes are set in motion. Work plans should be developed in contemplation of strict adherence to security program requirements.

Mr. Roberts indicated that fringe benefits under consideration by Congress would give greater incentive to Federal employment and would be especially helpful to research work. He complimented OPEDA for a 25-year record of "leadership imbued with the concept that this organization was a professional one" having a transcending bond of mutual interest.

Stored-corn insect tests

PROTECTIVE DUSTS and sprays provide promising means of protection of stored grains. Dusts containing pyrethrins, synergized with piperonyl butoxide, now in commercial use, have been shown to be effective, in tests made by USDA specialists in experimental work on corn. In recent years the demand for adequate supplies of insect-free grain for milling purposes has caused emphasis to be placed on prevention rather than control of insects, according to Albert C. Apt, of the Stored-Produce Insects Section, of the Biological Sciences Branch, AMS.

Corn of the 1949 crop was shelled and stored at Beattie, Kans., since the fall of 1950, in farm storage grain bins of farm type. In 1952 the dusts were applied to the grain stream as it was elevated to a bin, plus a capping of dust at the rate of 10 pounds per bin. Grains dusted with a mixture containing talc suffered a heavy reduction in commercial grade, although no insects were found. Grain was also downgraded by the ryania-sulfur dioxide formulation because of the objectionable odor.

A water-based spray decreased, rather than increased, the water content of the corn. The operation was described by Dr. Apt, in a paper submitted for his Ph. D. degree at Kansas State College.

Correspondents add zip!

IT TAKES NEWS to make a news bulletin. In the *USDA* for April 7 we suggested that writers in the field send in brief items they thought would be of interest to the readers. The first response came from Archie K. Robinson, of Goldsboro, N. C. His story "40 Years Work for Farm People" appeared in the May 19 number. Pointed too.

Here are a couple of comments from the mailbox:

"Walking to work"

Good * * * but about speaking to a comparative stranger (*USDA*, Apr. 7), don't do it. He'll ask you for money, sure as shooting.

—T. SWANN HARDING
Rehoboth Beach, Del.,
and Puerto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station, Rio Piedras, P. R.

* * * I find the prescription of fresh air and the mild exercise of a daily walk is the best prescription I can make.

—GEORGE W. CALVER,
Attending Physician,
Congress of the
United States.

Dutch give azaleas to U. S.

DUTCH AZALEAS, a gift of the people of the Netherlands to the United States, were accepted by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson in a suitable ceremony at the National Arboretum, May 4. Many of the thousands of plants had already been set out and were in bloom. Dr. J. H. van Roijen, Ambassador of the Netherlands, made the presentation.

Secretary Benson in accepting the gift said, "I know that I speak for all Americans when I say that we have a warm place in our hearts for the people of the Netherlands. Their gift is a symbol of the mutual trust and friendship that has grown between us over the years." Members of the garden clubs and of the National Arboretum Advisory Council were in attendance.

The National Arboretum, a few blocks northeast of the capitol, was visited by thousands of residents and visitors during the weekends and by appointment on other days. The arboretum is operated by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

On May 3, the Morrison Azalea Garden, at the entrance to Azalea Valley, was dedicated by Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke. Dr. B. Y. Morrison, who developed the famous Glenn Dale Hybrid azaleas, was present at the ceremony. The garden that bears his name is now planted to specimens of each of the hybrids. Dr. Morrison retired 2 years ago, and is now living at Pass Christian, Miss. He selected about 450 Glenn Dale Hybrid varieties from 300,000 seedlings. Mr. Coke gave credit to the scientist's creative imagination in breeding these large-flowering hardy azaleas. The National Arboretum, with many acres of the landscape covered with azalea plantings, has become a laboratory and reference point for students, nurserymen, and azalea lovers.

A call for neatness

With a steady increase of recreational use of the national forest playgrounds, amounting to 7 percent last year, and a 97-percent increase over 1941, the Forest Service is trying to ready the 4,300 national forest camp and picnic areas for the summer crowds in 1954. Not that the more remote areas are crowded as those near large metropolitan centers. With some 35 million recreationists headed their way, and many camping facilities obsolescent or overcrowded, the Forest Service is urging all visitors to leave the camps clean and neat for the next visitor.

G. W. U. summer school

Registration for the 8-week summer term of George Washington University will be held June 21. Students not currently registered at the university must apply for admission to the Admissions Office, 2029 G Street NW., June 8 and 9.

Atomic energy and the farm

PROBABLY THE best collection of concise information in print on the subject of atomic energy in relation to agriculture is the congressional document, "The Contribution of Atomic Energy to Agriculture," reporting the hearings before the Subcommittee on Research and Development of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, recently issued for use of the Joint Committee. The hearings require a book of 92 pages, but the text is so divided into sections as to make easy reading.

Dr. B. T. Shaw, Administrator of ARS, USDA, discusses the tracing of plant foods in the growing plants by use of radioactive elements in fertilizer. The significance of pioneer work in the USDA 50 years ago is brought out, and only now is agriculture beginning to reap some of the larger benefits. Radioisotopes are also being used to trace the migrations of insects and the spread of insecticides. Even the feeding habits of honeybees are being studied, and we are learning more about the way milk is formed in a cow. New vistas are opened up on problems of animal nutrition and conservation of croplands.

Great advances in the study of photosynthesis in plants, the basis of all life, in that animals eat plants, are being made by use of atomic radioisotopes, according to Dr. S. B. Hendricks, head chemist of the Soil and Water Research Branch, ARS. Most crop seeds require an optimum depth of planting for best results. But seed of peppergrass, a weed, needs no covering at all. New discoveries are in the offing that may help unlock the mysteries of plant growth, to the advantage of agriculture, nutrition, and medicine. Also contributing to the discussion of scientific advances were Dr. Lyle T. Alexander, of Soil Conservation Service, USDA; Dr. E. C. Stakman, of the University of Minnesota; Dr. H. B. Tukey, head of the Department of Horticulture, Michigan State College; and others from the Atomic Energy Commission and the Brookhaven National Laboratory. A limited supply of the documents is available for distribution by the Office of Information, USDA.

Army worms on the march

Army worms and pea aphids were among the worst farm insect pests in May, according to the Cooperative Economic Insect Report. The population of young army worms was high in Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In Tennessee the entomologists feared repetition of last year's record outbreak.

Butterflies on the Boise

THE FOREST SERVICE is getting ready for another aerial attack on forest insects. This time some 169,000 acres of choice ponderosa pine on the Boise National Forest in Idaho are threatened by the pine butterfly, a defoliating insect. About 35 percent of the total volume of pine on the Boise forest—some 1.6 billion board-feet of timber worth \$30 million—is endangered. This job is perhaps the toughest fight on insects the Service will have to tackle this year.

The insects defoliated some 8,000 acres of pine timber last year. Drastic steps will have to be taken to protect watershed and recreational values and prevent the loss of revenue to industry by reduction in the yearly cut of timber. The fire hazard will also be greatly increased. Aerial spraying of DDT (from about June 20 to July 15) is the only feasible approach to satisfactory control. In advance of the actual fieldwork, the Forest Service will have to assure purchase and delivery of the insecticide, contract with plane owners for flying, and above all, to plan ahead for a safe job.

The work is highly hazardous. The Forest Service has been contracting for services of this kind for several years. The planes fly 100 to 200 feet above the treetops in rough mountainous terrain, somewhat higher than formerly. Advance planning on the safety aspects of the job is paying off in a sharp drop in the accident rate. This has been accomplished through development of high standards of pilot experience, recruitment, and training, plane design and performance.

Last year two men were killed when a plane hit an all but invisible static line above a transmission line during a spruce budworm spray run near Helena, Mont. Forest Service project leaders this year have every hope of completing the job with no accidents.

GS summer school

SUMMER COURSES in the USDA Graduate School will begin June 14. Graduate school teachers have the usual qualifications of college instructors, plus the fact that they "do the work in the day that they teach at night." Registration will be June 7 through June 12, Director T. Roy Reid announces. Nine men in responsible Federal positions have accepted membership on departmental committees of the School.

Maisy, a daisy

"Maisy, The Automatic Cow" has churned up a lot of interest among milk sellers and drinkers. Her story, "The Mechanical Cow Sells Milk," appeared in the April 1954 News for Farmers Cooperatives, monthly magazine of the Farmer's Cooperative Service. For Land O'Lakes Creameries, Inc., Minneapolis, "Maisy" gives forth milk in half-gallon containers—after the customer supplies the proper coins in this outdoor vending machine. Her internal mechanism can carry 204 two-quart containers on moving belts. Numerous letters and requests are coming to FCS from dairy people for additional information.

Grain thieves get caught

EIGHT MEN were arrested and charged with grain theft in the Department's stepped up spring drive against pilfering from stocks owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. State, county, and local law-enforcement officials in the Midwest were alerted. People living near storages were requested to notify the police of any unusual nighttime activities, certain exposed sites were put under surveillance, and cash rewards were offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of grain thieves.

Two thieves caught in Texas were sentenced for 3 and 5 years. Another under the State "habitual criminal" law was sentenced for life. These men also systematically looted private elevators. Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio also saw arrests.

A lost sliver of a broken tail-gate tripped three men in Ohio who sold stolen grain in Kentucky and Tennessee. Faced with the evidence, the men confessed. A thief in Illinois got stuck in the mud between the bin and the highway. Passersby offering to help him found the truck full of grain. He confessed and was held for trial. A trucker near the Missouri line in Iowa was stopped after midnight, and later, after a lie-detector test, confessed and was jailed in lieu of bond.

Grain thieves usually break a gate at night, cut a hole in the bin high enough to run the grain into a truck by gravity. They sell the grain to buyers living some distance away. The drive on grain thieves is carried on with vigor. Result, out of 640,000,000 bushels in CCC bins, only some 23,000 bushels have been stolen over a period of several months.

Baloney is flattery so thick it cannot be true, and blarney is flattery so thin that we like it.

—FULTON J. SHEEN.

The job of the scientist

RESULTS OF a study of effective and ineffective performance of 3,000 research employees, recently conducted by John C. Flanagan, professor of psychology of the University of Pittsburgh, for the Office of Naval Research, are being reviewed by the Office of Personnel. Robert L. Hill, of the technical staff of the Division of Employee Performance and Development, reports some of the findings of Dr. Flanagan.

Alertness to unusual phenomena, with the ability to explore new problem areas and to propose systematic hypotheses to fit the available facts, is the starting line for the effective research worker, Dr. Flanagan reports. After describing formulation of problems and hypotheses and good planning of the investigations, Mr. Hill outlines a way of measuring the scientist's effective methods of conducting his studies. Excerpts from his summary in *Personnel Administration* follow:

The area of investigation should measure the ingenuity and resourcefulness with which the scientists revises, chooses, or modifies techniques, materials, or procedures to fulfill his plans or to adjust to changes in condition; also his understanding of techniques and principles as shown by his application of them during the course of the investigation; his awareness of need for checking details of seemingly insignificant occurrences; his care in recording data and the progress of the investigation; and his analysis of the data.

Effective interpretation of research results depends upon the logical and deductive abilities of the research worker as demonstrated in the interpretation of the results of his investigation of the problem. It includes investigation of all the data of phenomena observed; the effect of the experimental design on the data; and the final conclusions as to the meaning of the results. It includes also insight into the implications of the findings for further work or application to related work and the extending of conclusions from the specific data on hand to more general conditions or problems.

In preparing his report the scientist has the responsibility of describing his work clearly, so as to give the reader a thorough understanding of it; explaining the background of the problem and the relation of the problem to other work; and meaning of the results, including sufficient information about the materials, conditions, and equipment used in the problem in support of the conclusions reported. He permits the reader to draw his own conclusions; reporting work in logical sequence and in a form which the reader can follow, using simple language to convey his meaning to the reader; and presenting all reports in a clear and interesting manner.

Middle East progress

THE MIDDLE East is answering the call of progress, observes Dr. Afif I. Tannous, of Foreign Agricultural Service, who has returned after 2½ years as deputy director of the FOA Mission to Lebanon. Education, agriculture, water development, communications, and commerce are making strides in the eastern Mediterranean countries and beyond. There is also some promising industrial development. After a disastrous flood, Iraq is building better than before. Ethiopia's Emperor, having initiated many changes in his country, pays a visit to the United States. Iran and other lands, with cooperation of United States technicians, have mitigated the plague of locusts. Countries that once led the world, are trying to make the most of their resources. Small Lebanon leads the way in literacy and is increasingly playing its traditional role of maintaining intensive contacts with western culture and technology.

Facing the sea, and having sent emigrants to all quarters of the world, Lebanon is well advanced in commerce. It is a progressive country determined to stabilize its young national existence and government by the people, despite many difficulties. Dr. Tannous finds the integrity and morale of civil servants is improving under urgent demands of sound national development. The people generally are healthy, independent, tolerant, and friendly. There are two modern universities in Beirut and an expanding program of education. The citizens of Lebanon back the program for more local schools. Throughout the Arabic countries, the newspapers are printed in Arabic and can be read by the literate people everywhere. Lebanese citizens are interested in the news, and the elections. Trade with the United States is making promising gains.

On a 5-month detail to Egypt Dr. Tannous found a genuine and determined effort for progress, especially aimed at the emancipation of the peasants, most of whom are tenants. He also visited Syria and Jordan, where he saw convincing indications of development in water use, agriculture, education, public health, and industry. In most of the Middle East countries United States technical aid programs are making increasing contributions to the development of human and natural resources.

Dr. Tannous is assistant to the Assistant Administrator of Foreign Agricultural Service for technical assistance. He is coordinator of the agricultural

activities of the Foreign Operations Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture.

On questionnaires

THE PROS and cons of condensed versus detailed schedules for use in surveys of family living expenditures are discussed by Barbara B. Reagan, (ARS), in *Agricultural Economics Research* for April. The short schedules on family expenditures generally indicated results about 10 percent lower than those from the more detailed forms. Complexities of gross income and business expense make the shortcut method difficult with farm or other self-employed families.

"Furthermore," she writes, "the condensed schedule was expected to result in a relatively short interview on family expenditures. A condensed schedule means reduced costs only if quick answers to summary questions are acceptable, and if the respondent is willing to give such answers. Past experience has shown that if carefully built-up answers are wanted, it is both quicker and more accurate to provide space for the components on the survey forms rather than leave enumerator and respondent to attempt to itemize and add components in the margin of a schedule or on scratch paper. . . . In schedule design, as in sampling, the degree of accuracy that can be afforded must be decided in the light of each study purpose."

A recent report of such a survey is AIB 101, *Farm Family Spending and Saving in Illinois*. It was compiled by Jean L. Pennock, Margaret L. Brew, and Rose C. Tillinghast, and is one of a series of studies on levels of consumption in rural areas.

Spokane features Tootell

THE INSTALLATION of Robert B. Tootell as Governor of the Farm Credit Administration was featured pictorially in the April "Association Messenger" published by the FCA of Spokane, Wash., the "Cooperative Digest," Ithaca, N. Y., and other publications. The ceremony in Washington, D. C., was attended by Under Secretary True D. Morse of USDA; E. F. Bartelt, fiscal assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury; H. B. Munger, chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board; C. R. "Cap" Arnold retiring governor, representatives of farm organizations, Mrs. Tootell, J. G. Knapp, Administrator of Farmer Cooperative Service, and many others from the

Department of Agriculture. Governor Tootell spoke on the objective to speed up the progress toward complete farmer-ownership of the entire farm credit system, including the banks for cooperatives, intermediate credit banks, and production credit corporations. A plan will be developed and submitted to Congress in December. Federal land banks, are already owned by their borrowers through their national farm loan associations, and 75 percent of the PCA's are now farmer-owned. The others are nearing their goal.

Mr. Tootell was formerly director of extension in the States of Washington and Montana, and was employed nearly 10 years by the Federal Land Bank of Spokane and the FCA, 1933-1943. The tall, sharp-eyed, friendly new governor, took office 20 years to a day from his entry into the cooperative credit system.

TV war on barberry

THE TV audience reached by station KHO, Spokane, Wash., sat in their living rooms recently and saw just how the barberry eradication work of the Plant Pest Control Branch, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is done. A 3-minute film, taken in the field by the KHO cameramen, answered some of the common questions asked by Spokane residents and farmers in eastern Washington: What does the barberry look like? How do you find the bushes? How are they destroyed? How do they cause stem rust of the small-grain crop? The telecast, which is a new approach to the job of informing the public of Plant Pest Control Branch work, was a part of the station's 6:45 p. m. news program. G. L. Britton, assistant leader of barberry eradication in Washington and Montana, narrated the film.

Moving day for wasps

Do you know that hornets never use their nest a second year? That they invented paper before man ever thought of it? That wasps, hornets, and even yellow jackets kill flies and other insects? These heavily armed insects, however, should be controlled when they are too close for comfort. The new USDA Leaflet 365, *Wasps and How to Control Them*, is brief, but packed with facts. (Copies available, Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

Retirement goes full circle

The Retirement Division of Civil Service Commission, after more than 30 years and 6 moves, finds itself back in the Pension Building, where it started operations in August, 1920, following passage of the Retirement Act on May 22, 1920. Arthur L. Hayford was brought over from the Treasury Department to establish the filing system, and he has remained in the Division ever since.

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Titles—and headlines

We all know, of course, that titles identify the sponsor, producer, technicians, and the film; but they should also perform a far more important task. They should arouse audience desire to see the film. Uninteresting, drab, poorly produced titles are a sign of poor showmanship. But far more serious, they can cause an audience to prejudge—unfavorably—the film itself.

WALTER K. SCOTT, Chief, Motion Picture Service, USDA

Payroll savings plan

TREASURY DEPARTMENT's Savings Bond Division and the State Directors are assisting departmental officials with special instruction about the Government thrift program during June. President Eisenhower has asked for continuing leadership of Government employees in the purchase of Savings Bonds through the payroll savings plan. Secretary Benson points out that as of May 10, 28.9 percent of the Department's employees were participating in the plan, whereas the percentage for all Federal employees was 50.8 percent.

He asks that everyone consider the advantages of participating in the plan, and adds: "Tell your supervisor or your payroll office you *want* to sign a Payroll Savings card."

Workers for the farm job

PLACEMENT OF FARM workers by the Farm Placement Service of the Department of Labor reached a new high of 9,286,720 in 1953 and may exceed this mark in 1954, according to *Employment Security Review*. Sometimes the Service was able to help in saving crops in emergency, as happened with the cotton harvest in Arizona, where an intensive campaign of publicity for local help was organized. A nationwide preseason planning conference was held in Kansas City this year, with all the States represented. Arrangements were made for scheduling and guiding migrant workers. Another interesting feature of the 1954 program is described as follows:

"The number of States placing city youth to live in farm homes for vacation jobs is on the upswing. Five State agencies reported such placements in 1951, 8 in 1952, and 15 in 1953. Quite often, for some of these young people this turns out to be a very important step. Many return to the farm a second or third summer and after graduation from high school, enroll in agricultural college, looking to a future in farming."

Maxwell to head land banks

THOMAS A. MAXWELL, Jr., treasurer of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha since 1947 and with the cooperative Farm Credit system since 1936, is coming to Washington, D. C., July 1 as Deputy Governor and Director of Land Bank Service of the Farm Credit Administration. Mr. Maxwell is a native of York, Nebr., and is a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

In his new position, Mr. Maxwell will head the service in the FCA responsible for the supervision of the farmer-owned cooperative Land Bank System which includes 12 Federal land banks and 1,127 national farm loan associations. About a third of a million farmers with loans totalling \$1.2 billion are presently using this source of long-term farm mortgage credit.

4-H Win Washington

THIS WEEK Washington welcomes 4-H Club delegates from nearly every State, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico to the twenty-fourth National 4-H Club Camp. Two boys and 2 girls and 1 to 4 extension workers from each State, will be in town from June 16 to 23 to study at close range the theme, "Your Government, 4-H, and You."

Representing more than 2,058,000 rural youth between the ages of 10 and 21 throughout the Nation, the 300 or so 4-H members and leaders will meet the President, the Secretary of Agriculture and other officials of Government, visit historic shrines, observe the latest in scientific developments at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, get acquainted with rural young people from other lands here through the International Farm Youth Exchange program, discuss affairs of State, and receive valuable citizenship training. Their aim will be to share ideas and experiences with each other in their common pledge of "Heads, Hearts, Hands, and Health for better living." These young people as usual interest Washington as much as the capital interests them.

Agricultural engineers meeting

Several members of the Agricultural Engineering Research Branch, ARS, will attend the 47th annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at Minneapolis, Minn., June 20-23. Papers will be read by USDA engineers, faculty members of State Colleges, and representatives of industries. Dr. E. G. McKibben, Chief of the Branch, will head the delegation from ARS. The program will cover farm structures, soil erosion, rural electrification, instruction for agricultural students, power machinery, soil and water, and other topics.

Among the deodars

MORE THAN 300 delegates from all parts of the world are expected to attend the Fourth World Forestry Congress, which will be held at Dehra Dun, India, December 11-22.

Dehra Dun is known throughout the forestry world as the site of the Indian Forest Research Institute. It stands in the shadow of the Himalayas, and some of the world's most impressive forests. It is in the homeland of the deodar cedar.

The Congress, which is being organized by the Indian Government in cooperation with FAO, will differ in a number of ways from the earlier meetings held at Rome (1926), Budapest (1936), and Helsinki (1949). It is, for example, the first time that the Congress has been held outside Europe. Tours will cover many of the finest forest areas in India and will take delegates into neighboring Pakistan to see its famous forests.

USDA will be represented by several delegates, including members of the Forest Service. There will also be representatives of forestry schools, organizations, and forest industries.

Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, is chairman of the Special Committee on the Fourth World Forestry Congress. Tom Gill of the Society of American Foresters is secretary.

Dutton embarks for Africa

WALT DUTTON, formerly range research chief of the Forest Service, who retired last December and promptly stepped in as Executive Officer of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture, took leave of the OPEDA office in the Administration Building at the end of May, and prepared to embark for Africa as adviser on range matters for the British Government. He will spend 2 years in the highland grazing areas of British West Africa and of Kenya. He is convinced that the climate at high altitudes will be an improvement on the weather often prevalent in Washington. Mrs. Dutton will accompany him.

An Oregon State College man, Walt started with the U. S. Forest Service as a guard and became a division chief in 1936. To the temporary job with OPEDA, he brought broad experience, including 16 years of appearing at intervals before Congressional committees. OPEDA has thrived during his term of office, celebrating its 25th anniversary in April. Now Walt will find himself at home on the range on the top of Africa.

Dr. Graham wins fellowship

EDWARD H. GRAHAM, SCS, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for research in the physical and social sciences and humanities. Dr. Graham is director of the Plant Technology Division and was formerly assistant chief of Soil Conservation Service. The award was for his comparative study of the use of land resources.

Dr. Graham is in Europe for the summer making a study of conservation and land use problems in the principal Mediterranean countries from Portugal and Spain to Turkey and Egypt, and throughout central and western Europe. He will attend meetings of the International Botanical Congress in Paris, July 2-24, and will read a paper on "Use of Ecological Concepts in Land Use Programs in the United States." Later, at Copenhagen, Denmark, he will attend the International Union for Protection for Nature, as a delegate from SCS and from the Soil Conservation Society of America, and as a consultant on ecology and land use. He will also visit the Rothamstead experiment station and the Land-Use Survey while in England.

Born in New Brighton, Pa., he attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he took his Ph. D. degree in 1931. For several years he was assistant in botany and education, and later assistant curator in botany at the Carnegie Museum.

He joined the USDA in 1937, where he became known for his "avid study of the facts of soil conservation and ecology." Dr. Graham is the author of two books; "National Principles of Land Use" and "The Land and Wildlife," as well as numerous Department bulletins. In 1949 he taught conservation in summer school at Harvard.

British Agricultural fairs

Visitors from the United States are assured a special welcome and some complimentary facilities at seven great agricultural shows in Great Britain this year. The 106-year-old Royal will be held at Windsor July 6-9; Bath and West Show, at Exeter, June 2-5; Three Counties Agricultural Show, at Gloucester, June 8-10; Royal Highland Show, at Dumfries Scotland, June 22-25; Great Yorkshire Show, at Harrogate, July 13-15; Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, at Machynlleth, Wales, July 21-23; Smithfield Show and Agricultural Exhibition, at London (Earls Court), December 6-10. The latest in farming and processing machinery and in products will be featured.

It is announced that Her Majesty the Queen will attend the Royal, July 7.

Effects and consequences

Every cause produces more than one effect.
—HERBERT SPENCER.

Planning better directories

The Department Publications Committee is making a study of plans for adequate directories to serve the Department and agency and field needs. A uniform format may be worked out. Accordingly, Administrative Assistant Secretary Roberts has requested those planning to issue directories to await completion of the study.

Announcing examination

The USDA Office of Personnel has the announcement of a Civil Service examination for the position of warehouse examiner. Those wishing to take the examination should apply to the Board of Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WAREHOUSE EXAMINER. An examination for Warehouse Examiner, GS-5 to GS-9, to fill positions in AMS and CSS throughout the United States, was announced May 5. Options are: Grain, Cotton, Miscellaneous Products (Dry Storage), and Miscellaneous Products (Cold Storage). There is no closing date. Ask for Announcement No. 405 (B).

J. W. Johnson goes fishing

John Wesley Johnson retired May 24 after 43 years service as a confidential messenger under 11 successive Secretaries of Agriculture. Many friends attended the retirement reception given by Under Secretary True D. Morse. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson and five former Secretaries were among the scores of officials who wrote letters to "Little Johnson," who plans now to revisit his home State, Mississippi, and go fishing.

Death of Raymond Sayre

Raymond Sayre, of Ackworth, Iowa, a member of the 13-member policy-making Federal Farm Credit Board, of the Farm Credit Administration, died May 23. His death resulted from injuries received when a tree he was cutting on his Iowa farm fell on him. Mr. Sayre had been a director of the Farm Credit Board of Omaha from 1938 to 1953 and in 1951-52 was chairman of a 12-man committee of Farm Credit directors for the 12 Farm Credit districts.

New GS committeemen

FRANK TEUTON, long the information chief of AIC and its predecessors, now branch chief, Visual Information, Agricultural Research Service, has been made chairman of the Committee on Information of the Graduate School. He succeeds E. R. McIntyre, former editor of *USDA*. David Hall, a branch chief of ARS Information, is also a new member of this committee. Other appointments of USDA people as GS committeemen include: Edward F. Knipling, chief of Entomology Research, (biological sciences); James L. Buckley, assistant chief of the Office of Personnel, and G. E. Hilbert, Director of Utilization Research, (public administration), Dr. B. Ralph Stauber, chief of the Agricultural Price Statistics Branch, becomes chairman of the Committee on Mathematics and Statistics.

Thoughts in season

IT IS hard to believe that anyone would skip a vacation, yet many feel they cannot afford to take the time off. The vacation itself should be the cure for that "busy feeling." Sometimes it takes many days of planning and pushing the work to clear the decks—so many things to remember—but maybe the Chief comes along and says: "Forget it!" That makes a fine start.

It doesn't matter too much where you go. You fill your car with an assortment of items for comfort or emergency, and probably will not use many of them. One thing you have no room for is unfinished business. You need a rest and will be able to put more snap into the job when you come back.

However healthy you are, you need a complete change, and there are health reasons for taking your earned leave. You can loosen your belt and snap your suspenders. Unfettered in mind and body, you can take sport or let it alone, hiking, visiting, and enjoying yourself. Even the food is different. In all vacations, change is the important thing. Tear up your schedule, forget to wind the clock, and take the tension out of your mind. A Haskell Laboratory (du Pont) physician says:

"A high proportion of disabling and even fatal illness is due to the accumulating stresses of modern life. These stresses act as insults to the body physiology." Wise men of the Middle Ages used to leave their manuscripts and hold a "donkey festival" occasionally, coming off their dignity and provoking laughter, enjoying a little valiant nonsense to relieve the strain. Ours is the age of outdoor recreation, of which people take full advantage, and are the better for it.

There you have a few physiological, psychological, and philosophical reasons for taking a vacation and whetting your appetite for living. We can forget the old arguments, and some current ones too, and have a good time.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JUNE 30, 1954

are high and the satisfactions in making a personal contribution would be rewarding. Already, I have met many of you personally and, as the months go on, I look forward to the pleasure of meeting many more. Already, I know that the decision to become part of you was the correct one.

—MACHENRY SCHAFFER,
Director of Personnel.

Problems of 2-way trade

ONE OF the primary reasons why other countries are not buying more United States farm products is that so many countries tried hard after the war to build up their own economies to a point of self-sufficiency. In doing this they in many cases undertook too ambitious agricultural projects, some of which have proved so costly as to be impractical, according to Arthur G. Kevorkian, Acting Chief of Latin America Analysis Branch, Foreign Agricultural Service, who spoke at the FAS club luncheon, June 4.

In Latin America he found trade with the United States a popular subject almost everywhere. The exception was Argentina; the Argentines, however, received the trade mission with the utmost cordiality. In the Eastern Hemisphere the mission found a great majority of the countries wanting to trade with the United States. They want trade to be a two-way street, export and import, exchanging product for product or money. Decidedly, they did not want "dumping."

The meeting was addressed also by James O. Howard, who spent two years in the Southern European countries, and Horace G. Bolster, also of FAS, who accompanied the mission in northern Europe, where interest in trade is also keen. Professor Marvin A. Schaars of Wisconsin University, a member of the mission, another speaker, had many interesting contacts in Europe, where he at first found the officials had misgivings about reported plans for dumping American products, but came to cordial understanding as soon as the objectives of the trade mission were explained.

Agricultural prices

The index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point ($\frac{1}{10}$ of 1%) during the month ending May 15. Increased prices for potatoes and cattle and high prices for early marketings of new crop cantaloupes and watermelons more than offset decreases for hogs, milk, and strawberries, Agricultural Marketing Service reports.

To My Fellow Employees

BEING A STRANGER in Washington, I have spent my evenings recently (when not being carted from house to house by some real estate agent interested in helping me find a home for my family) in walking around the streets getting acquainted with the city. The other night, I passed the buildings of George Washington University and a bronze sign on one of them caught my eye. "Human Relations Laboratory", it said, as I glanced up in the light from the street lamps. Walking on I began to think over the activities that must go on in that section of the buildings. In there, are people working on the problems of the inter-personal relations between humans; the happiness, the sorrow, the frustrations, the tensions, the hopes, and aspirations of people working out their destinies alone and in social groups. And then it struck me that a Personnel Director is in many ways like the Director of such a research center. Basically, that is his job: to deal successfully with the many-faceted relationships between people. To guide and lead a group whose primary function is to study, understand, and initiate actions about people.

In the area of personnel work today there has grown up some tendency to professionalism and specialization that clouds this main issue. Personnel people, like those in the other areas of human employment, tend to become expert in the routine phases of their work. They get to know the answers about job analysis and classification, about the employment process, about orientation and training, about suggestion systems and safety rules, about organization structures and the hundred books of rules and regulations about this and that that makes up their daily work. They become students of material things and not of people.



MacHenry Schafer

The main job of the Personnel Man is to minimize friction between people. The organization with the best morale is the one with the least friction between people in their day-to-day contacts. Good organization, good supervision, qualified and competent personnel, adequate physical plant, reasonable pay scales and promotional structures, and full recognition of individual merit and achievement all contribute to this goal. It is the job of the Personnel Man to strive constantly to improve his own organization's ability to meet these human needs. This does not mean that he is a soft and milksop character. On the contrary, successful leadership requires establishing the highest of human standards, and firmness of guidance toward achieving them. We are proudest to work in a group whose standards are high. The worth of achievement is the greater.

I am happy to be a part of the Department of Agriculture group. I was convinced, before I came, that its standards

Foreign trade

AN OVER-ALL picture of American foreign trade in agricultural products was recently given by Don Paarlberg, Assistant to the Secretary, USDA, as follows:

About two-thirds of the United States aggregate cash farm income derives from the output of livestock, dairy, poultry, truck crops and other products whose main market is the American consumer. While there are some exports and imports of these products, foreign trade for each of these commodities is less than 5 percent of cash farm receipts therefrom.

About one-third of our aggregate cash farm income is from commodities for which our exports are substantially larger than our imports. Major products in this group are cotton, wheat, tobacco, fruit, animal fats, and rice.

For a few commodities, which bring in about 3 percent of United States cash farm income, imports are substantially in excess of exports. Major products in this group are sugar and wool. For each of these, in 1952 we imported more than twice as much as we produced domestically.

Total exports of American agricultural products in 1952 equaled about 11 percent of cash farm receipts. Some of these exports had been processed to some extent with resultant increase in value. The true relative importance of agricultural exports, therefore, was something less than 11 percent of American farm production.

Because we also import large quantities of agricultural products not commercially produced in the United States, such as coffee, cocoa, tea, spice, jute and rubber, the United States is a net importer of agricultural products. In 1952 net imports were equal to about 3 percent of our cash farm receipts.

Mr. Paarlberg also pointed out that the export of agricultural products for 8 months following the fiscal year 1954 had held at almost exactly the same rate as the year before, that is: The exports had held their own, going on at a rate about 30 percent less than for the year ending June 30, 1952. The decline is attributed to recovery of world agriculture, the termination of abnormally large postwar shipments to other countries, the shortage of dollars in many countries, causing important shifts to nondollar sources of supply, and the pricing of numerous export items above the level of world-market prices. Other exporting nations have been able to unload their low-price stocks. The situa-

tion calls for a "combination of realistic pricing and imaginative merchandising," and present efforts are along these lines.

Farmers beat the heat

WHEN THE weather's so hot he can see the heat waves shimmering over pasture and cornfield—that's when today's farmer gives special thanks if he's one of the 95 percent of American farmers with electric high-lines crossing his property.

REA points out many ways in which the modern farmer is making mighty good use of kilowatts for coolness throughout summer's hot days. He's using them to assure an ample supply of running water, hot or cold; to keep a variety of electric fans moving the air; and on many farms today, to run the newest of air-conditioning systems.

Electric power brings cool comfort to livestock and poultry as well as to the humans on the farm. Thousands of farmers now are cooling and ventilating barns and poultry houses, and finding that money spent to do this is money saved in the end. In years past, a farmer frequently has had to watch helplessly on hot, humid days, while turkeys and chickens were falling around him like flies. Now, with electricity, he can take several steps to save his birds. He can place an electric exhaust fan in the poultry house, over the roosts; or a large circulating fan on the floor, to keep the air moving. He can install sprinklers on the roof to lower the temperature inside on scorching days. He can give his feathered friends extra water, so that they can drink all day if they like—and they sometimes do. And, since chickens and turkeys appear to find water beneficial outside as well as inside the body, many poultrymen are arranging some system of water spraying. An occasional shower bath appears to benefit the disposition as well as the body of a bird.

REA reports that most farm families seem to regard an automatic water system as the greatest single blessing electricity has brought to rural living. In the summer, this blessing takes many forms in addition to those already mentioned. Stock-watering, cleaning the barn and dairy house, washing the milking utensils—these jobs are lifted out of the drudgery class when water under pressure is available. And in the house, practically every household activity gets a lift when there's plenty of running hot and cold water. Then at the end of a long, hot day, every member of the family can relax in a refreshing tub or shower.

Century of learning

MICHIGAN STATE College will be 100 years old in 1955. As the first full-fledged agricultural college in the United States, its founding "drastically changed the course of education in America," in that it took the lead in establishing a service for large numbers of people rather than relatively few. This was a great forward step in education.

The brochure announcing the centennial tells how Senator Morrill of Vermont and Senator Bingham of Michigan drew up and proposed the Morrill Act, which granted lands to the States to be sold and the money used for the * * * "Endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be * * * to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts * * * to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

Michigan State became a model for the land-grant college system. It now ranks as the ninth largest university in the country. President John A. Hannah says that the Centennial occasion will make the college a "world center for discussions by leaders in our civilization." More than 500 colleges, universities, and learned societies from America and over the free world will be invited to attend the Founders' Day program, February 12.

Retirement redeposit

IN COMPUTING an employee's annuity when he retires (or the annuity due his widow and children if he dies in service) no credit at all may be given for any service for which a refund has been paid unless the money has been redeposited. It's just good common sense to repay the money so that no time credit is lost, according to the Civil Service Commission. You should make a redeposit as soon as possible after you are reemployed in a position in which you are under the Retirement Act, and save interest. The sooner the money is returned, the less will have to be paid.

To make a redeposit, first obtain Standard Form 103 (Application for Service Credit) from either the Payroll Office of the Budget and Finance Division or the Retirement Division. Fill out the face of this form and send it to the Payroll Office. It will be completed by the office and forwarded to the Retirement Division. There a computation will be made and a bill sent to you.

Tailor-making cotton

SCIENCE IS nibbling away at the cotton surplus. Cotton, one of our principal crops, has had to meet competition of new cotton fields in other countries, and of synthetic fibers in the field of manufacture. We have to use more cotton for more purposes, and the research program underway is improving the properties of cotton through chemical treatment and modification. As Dr. G. E. Hilbert, Director of Utilization Research, ARS, puts it: we must "tailor-make cotton fibers for special use."

One of these fibers, acetulated cotton, has higher heat resistance than either natural cotton or synthetic fibers and is being used for commercial and home laundry ironing board covers. It also has marked resistance to biological attack and sunlight. Better flameproof cotton fabric using the chemical, THPC, is another example of chemical treatment.

Improved types of equipment for processing cotton have been developed. One is a new type of cotton opener which fluffs up the fibers and makes them easier to clean. These openers are saving a dollar per bale in processing costs. New instruments have been developed for measuring the properties of cotton fibers to determine their best end usage. A new dye technique for distinguishing between immature and mature fibers is helping industry pinpoint processing problems.

All these developments help reduce processing costs and improve the quality of cotton fabrics, thus placing the cotton textile industry in a better competitive position with respect to synthetic fibers.

Miller directs tobacco unit

Clarence L. Miller, of Kentucky is the new director of the Tobacco Division, Commodity Stabilization Service. In announcing the appointment of the new director, Administrator James A. McConnell, CSS, also announced the transfer of former Director J. E. Thigpen to be Director of the Oils and Peanuts Division. Mr. Miller is a tobacco farmer of wide experience and an administrator of farm programs in Shelby County and his State. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and of Western State College.

Try writing it out

"Write it, don't tell it." A modern philosopher puts it this way: A man's works (writings) are the quintessence of his mind, and even though he may possess great capacity, they will always be incomparably more valuable than his conversation.

New Alabama paper

Director E. V. Smith of Alabama station announces the first issue of *Highlights of Agricultural Research*, the latest in the family of experiment station periodicals.

USDA: June 30, 1954

"Signs" in milk sales

MORE SALES promotion of milk and alertness in merchandising should bring dairy products into wider use, according to an article in *Agricultural Situation* by Philip B. Dwoskin, AMS. Promotions of milk and byproducts have demonstrated this in many cases. Promotional efforts are not only useful but essential if maximum sales of milk are obtained. An interesting explanation of changes in food buying habits is given by the *Agricultural Situation* editor, under the heading "Looking back a little."

"Not so very many years ago we learned from our economic textbooks that certain foods, like bread, potatoes, and milk had an *inelastic* demand. They were foods that people felt they just had to have. Consumers were supposed to buy about the same amount each year without much regard for price. The so-called inelastic foods were regarded as necessities. People bought what they needed regardless. But we have found from experience that this doesn't always hold true. Better refrigeration and other technological advances, including the introduction of substitutes, bring shifts in our eating habits. Consumption levels gradually change over long periods; and sometimes, because of unusual conditions, change rather rapidly.

"People, in this country, on the average, don't eat as much bread or as many potatoes as they used to eat, because they have come to like other foods and because a great many who once could afford only the staple foods are now able to choose a wider variety.

"During the last war many foods, like ham and beefsteak, were relatively scarce, and you had to have ration coupons to get them. Milk, on the other hand, was plentiful, milk was a food you could get without coupons. It was good food and people generally had money with which to buy. Consumers stepped up their purchases of milk and the per capita consumption of fluid milk and cream in 1945 reached an all-time high.

"After the war, rationing came to an end and you could buy about as much ham, and steak, and other choice foods as you wanted. So consumers, still with high per capita purchasing power, began to spread their food dollars. This meant less of their food dollars went for milk. Only about 350 pounds of milk and cream per capita was consumed in 1953, compared with 400 pounds for each person in 1945.

"Farmers and dairymen, and others

interested in selling milk, have found out that consumers do increase their use of milk somewhat when the price goes down, and vice versa. They are beginning to ask whether they might not have held on to at least a part of the wartime record consumption of milk had they been as attentive to sales promotion and merchandising methods during the last few years as were those who went all-out to advertise competing foods and beverages."

Change may save dry areas

THE RECENT drought in some of the southern Great Plains areas indicates a need for changes in farming and land use, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson said recently in commenting on a research report of Agricultural Research Service. The droughts of the 1880's, the 1890's, and 1930's caused widespread depopulation and radical changes in land use. Most of the changes were temporary, and much poor farming land was again put into grain and cotton production during the war periods. The present drought in some sections began in 1950. Less than an inch of rain fell in some areas during the past winter, and bankruptcies and farm foreclosures increased. The emergency has proved to be acute. The Department and the States are considering long-range programs to prevent dust bowls. More than 8 million acres would need to be withdrawn from cultivation and converted to grassland. Conservation practices would be used on other lands to save the soil from wind erosion.

Honors for former FS man

FORESTERS AND loggers from all over the Pacific Northwest gathered recently to honor Georger L. Drake, of the Simpson Logging Co. of Shelton, Wash., on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Drake was a member of the Forest Service for many years, before going to Shelton to take charge of woods operations for the logging concern.

At Shelton, he had an important part in negotiating the first cooperative sustained-yield agreement, by which Forest Service and Simpson pooled company lands and adjacent lands in the Olympic National Forest to furnish a sustained supply of timber for the Simpson mills and thus contribute to the permanent stability of the Shelton community. A *Portland Oregonian* editorial praised Mr. Drake for helping to bring forestry and logging operations together.

"Lazy" corn put to work

CREEPING CORN, that runs along the ground like a vine has no place on the farm, but Dr. Donald F. Jones, chief geneticist of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is growing this "lazy" corn and other freak types to discover characteristics needed in breeding superior hybrids for the farm. He also has dwarfs, albinos, corns with oddly shaped leaves, and even a strange strain that produces hundreds of stems from a single root, like a coarse grass.

When the corn freaks are crossed, the offspring are nearly always normal in every respect and are vigorous and productive. That is why Dr. Jones works with these oddities. Once, he came across a plant with a barren cob devoid of seed. This set him on the trail of its counterpart—a plant with barren tassels which produced no pollen. He found such a plant and, after many years of crossing with normal plants and back-crossing and crossing again, he came up with a whole family of corn plants that produced no pollen.

In the production fields where the seeds for the Nation's crop of hybrid corn are grown, each year hundreds of workers have had to go through the crossing rows, pulling out the tassels from the "female" plants on which seed is to be produced. This is done so that the plants do not self-pollinate, and so that only pollen from the "male" plant is shed, thus insuring a pure, true seed supply.

With the development of plants that produce no pollen, this laborious tassel-pulling chore can be eliminated. Dr. Jones has found that the "pollenless" characteristic can be bred into almost any strain of corn, and such plants can be used to produce hybrid seed more cheaply.

New type stock shade

A roof of hay in a 4- to 6-inch layer between two layers of woven-wire fencing makes the coolest artificial shade for livestock, say the engineers of USDA and the California Experiment Station. The air passes through easily and the bottom surface is insulated from much of the heat from the top.

Locust war, political peace

William B. "Bill" Mabey, ARS, a Nevadan, back from a long tour of duty fighting pests of locusts in the Middle Eastern countries, is as much interested in peace as in locusts. He reported to FAS that: "Peace has to be worked at, and part of the battle is technical assistance. As for the training of foreign agricultural people, I don't think anyone can praise it too highly. There's no better way, no cheaper way, to help these people along the road to political and economic development than by technical assistance."

Peanuts are picky

PEANUTS MAY be grown under many climatic and soil conditions, but economic crops are choosy about soils and weather. As a result only three large areas grow most of the commercial crop. They are the Virginia-North Carolina region, the Georgia-Alabama-Florida region and the Texas-Oklahoma region. The soil should be light-textured and fertile, with a good subsoil. It must be free of gravel, stones, and small pebbles that cannot be screened or blown out of the harvested crop. Peanuts should also be grown in rotation with other crops, says USDA Farmers' Bulletin 2063, "Growing Peanuts," just off the press. A 2-year rotation of peanuts followed by crimson clover sown as soon as the peanuts are harvested, and a crop of corn the second year is common in the Tidewater section of Virginia. A peanut, corn, and cotton rotation is followed in Alabama. The bulletin deals also with fertilizer, varieties, and byproducts, and the feeding of peanut hay or straw. It may be had from Information, USDA.

Nice encomium

MARGARET DAVIS, editor of the George Washington University *Federalist*, writes:

Taxpayers' dollars help support many services in the public interest of a type that money cannot buy.

They are services by Federal employees who have special talents and special devotion. Some involve qualities of courage, patience, determination, matchless integrity. Others, superb use of special skill and training in business, science, the arts, in fact, in every kind of vocation. . . . Sometimes exceptional public service is abetted by spare time activities of Federal employees relating to their jobs. A Department of Agriculture leader points out that an important key to success in agricultural programs is citizen participation and he spends many "after hours" in community work.

An article emphasizing the University's long tradition of association with Government through its students and alumni who are employed as public servants appeared in the May 29th number of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Nebraska farm facts book

A. E. Anderson, agricultural statistician, in charge of State-Federal Agricultural Statistics, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, sends USDA a copy of the new annual report. The book is more than a set of tables, as it contains charts and prefatory articles, a livestock review, crop and weather reviews, and discussion of prices. The statistics, "essential in the solution of the complex problems of agriculture," were collected for the annual State Census of Agriculture. The book can be obtained free of charge by writing to Agricultural Estimates, P. O. box 1911, Lincoln 1, Nebraska.

Thoughts in season

IT IS not everyone who can "make the eagle scream" on the Fourth of July. It is given to few to express easily and naturally, yet inspiringly, their feeling of reverence and love of country. For this reason most of us are inclined to keep silent. To keep silent is an American privilege. Certain tyrants of old, and some not so ancient, construed a citizen's silence as discontent. We can freely speak or hold our peace. Whether one is on the platform, or at the head of the parade, or alone in the shade, or in the field saving a hay crop, some large part of his thought on the Fourth will be on his country, its glorious past and its confident future.

Perhaps you recall some Independence Days on the farm—such as the Fourth on which the first watermelon ripened on the vine, or you had the first roasting ears of the season, or you first crossed the State line to fish in a big river. Many great events in the life of the Nation have happened in the week of the Fourth and are recorded in history. You yourself may possibly recall the Fourth in 1898, when a neighbor in an old buckboard loped his horse out from town with a newspaper announcing the victory of the American Navy at Santiago. You received the news as you rode a horse hitched to the Long Tom rake. And never forgot it.

There was much hilarity and wild and uninformed speculation among the people. But every man had a right to his opinion, and the right to express it as long as anybody would listen. Today, as then, we have the same rights, almost unique in the world. And God help any who would try to interfere with our American freedom of thought! It is a good time to concentrate our thinking on the good of America; and for the day, the world would be well lost for love of our country.

It is a grand and glorious United States. Its present and future deserve our soberest and deepest consideration on this Glorious Fourth.

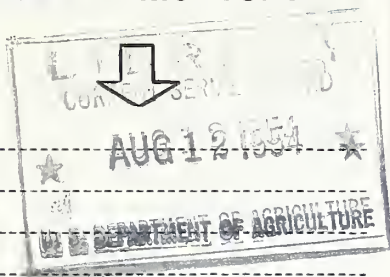
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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 14, 1954



For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Marketing Service: RICHARD C. BEEMAN, fruit and vegetable marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.; CLARA E. KRUSE, clerk (typist) (assistant head), Kansas City, Mo.; CLYDE C. MILLER, fruit and vegetable marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.

Agricultural Research Service: ANNA L. DESILVESTRI, supervisory clerk, Washington, D. C.

Farmer Cooperative Service: MILDRED R. FARROW, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.

Farmers Home Administration: PATRICIA P. COX, clerk typist, New Albany, Miss.; HERBERT A. GRAHAM, county supervisor, Jamestown, N. Dak.; KATHERINE M. POWELL, clerk-stenographer, Topeka, Kans.

Forest Service: THOMAS B. BARKER, truck driver (II), Missoula, Mont.; CARL H. ERICKSON, equipment operator (medium), Missoula, Mont.; LLOYD R. GOOD, range manager, Dickinson, N. Dak.; DONALD T. GORDON, forester, Berkeley, Calif.; ANDY E. GRIFFITH, forestry aid (general), Winchester, Ky.; GRANT A. HOLMAN, clerk, Logan, Utah; LILLIAN HORNICK, editorial clerk, Missoula, Mont.; ALFRED R. KALLAUS, administrative assistant, Alamogordo, N. Mex.; JOHN G. KOOCH, forester (adm.) (forest supervisor), McCall, Idaho; MEADE J. MOORE, forestry aid (general), Elkins, W. Va.; JOHN T. O'NEILL, deputy fiscal agent, Ogden, Utah; LAURENCE E. STOTZ, forester (administration), Warren, Pa.; FLOYD W. VICHE, fire control aid (dispatcher), Superior, Mont.

Soil Conservation Service: WARREN A. BLIGHT, soil conservationist, Charlotte, Mich.; BRUCE F. CHAFFIN, soil scientist, Winfield, La.; ALBIN T. CHALK, soil conservationist, Jefferson, Tex.; MABEL H. CLARK, clerk-stenographer, Dadeville, Ala.; PAUL J. CORAK, agricultural engineer (conservation), Portland, Ore.; PAULINE W. COWLEY, clerk-typist, Sarasota, Fla.; ELSIE S. CRIBB, clerk-stenographer, Spartanburg, S. C.; MARJORIE N. ESSICK, secretary, Raleigh, N. C.; LULA D. FORREST, clerk-stenographer, Raleigh, N. C.; HOWARD W. HANKINS, soil conservationist, Pine Bluff, Ark.; WOODROW HASKINS, soil scientist, Goldsboro, N. C.; HAROLD P. HODGES, soil scientist, Carrizo Springs, Tex.; SAMUEL A. JENKINS, soil conservationist, Shelby, N. C.; JOHN C. JESTER, soil conservationist, Durham, N. C.; ALLEN H. KING, soil conservationist, Lubbock, Tex.; NINA M. KING, clerk-stenographer, Cheboygan, Mich.; M. GRANT LINDSAY, soil scientist, Baker, Ore.; GEORGE C. MARKS, soil conservationist, Jefferson, Tex.; GLENN Y. MCCORD, engineering aid, Eden, Tex.; FRANK S. McELDOWNY, engineering aid (general), Harrisburg, Ore.; CARLOS L. McINTYRE, soil scientist, Rome, Ga.; LEROY R. MILLER, soil conservationist, Henderson, N. C.

LOUIS A. PARTON, soil conservationist, Hermiston, Ore.; R. CLYDE PLEASANTS, soil scientist, Raleigh, N. C.; JOSEPH PROSKOWETZ, Jr., clerk-typist, Alexandria, La.; CARROW T. PROUT, Jr., forester, Evergreen, Ala.; CHARLES M. SANDERS, drainage engineer, Dadeville, Ala.; CARL J. SCHREIBER, soil conservationist, Monmouth, Ill.; PAUL D. SCHUMACHER, soil conservationist, Thomaston, Ga.; CLARA SMITH, clerk-stenographer, Auburn, Ala.; HENRY N. STIDHAM, range conservationist, Ada, Okla.; EDWARD M. STONE, soil scientist, Waycross, Ga.; COURTNEY A. TIDWELL, soil conservationist, Temple, Tex.; WILLIAM H. VARNER, soil conservationist, Moultrie, Ga.; ROSALIE J. WHITTINGTON, clerk-stenographer, Raleigh, N. C.; J. MELVIN WILLIAMS, supervisory soil scientist, Albany, Ore.

Lodwick heads FAS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL Service has a new chief, William G. Lodwick, appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson as Administrator of the Service, June 28. Administrator Lodwick is an Iowan, a farmer who has had conspicuous success also as an agricultural consultant and as an adviser in foreign fields.

Clayton E. Whipple, who has served as acting administrator of the FAS, will continue in his position as deputy administrator. The FAS is the Department agency which, as a principal function, is making concerted efforts to regain and expand foreign markets for United States agricultural products.

Mr. Lodwick brings to his new assignment experience in operation of a farm near Centerville, Iowa. Prior to 1940 he practiced law in Chicago. Since 1950 he has served in various capacities as a consultant on foreign agricultural problems. From 1950 to 1951 he was the agricultural consultant to the United States military high command in Germany. From 1951 to 1953 he was the agricultural member of the Joint Brazil-United States Economic Development Commission in Rio de Janeiro. In 1953, he was agricultural adviser to the Government of Pakistan at Karachi.

He is a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and has a law degree from Northwestern University Law School in Chicago.

Motion Picture Committee

The following have been designated by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson as members of the Department Motion Picture Review Committee: Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts, chairman, Administrator of Federal Extension Service Clarence M. Ferguson, Administrator of Agricultural Research Service B. T. Shaw, Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service O. V. Wells, Administrator of Soil Conservation Service Donald A. Williams, Chief of Forest Service Richard E. McArdle, and Director of Information R. Lyle Webster.

The Chief of the Motion Picture Service will serve as secretary and consultant to the Committee, and the Director of the Office

of Budget and Finance as consultant on fiscal matters of cooperative film production. The Committee was appointed on recommendation of cooperating organizations that the Department join with reputable non-profit associations and educational organizations to produce motion pictures that will be useful in the Department's program for disseminating information on subjects related to agriculture and that are appropriate for Department and land-grant college distribution.

Gift of Smokey Bear

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Ezra Taft Benson was presented a Smokey Bear doll, the symbol of the State-Federal cooperative forest fire prevention campaign, by Richard E. McArdle, Chief of the Forest Service, June 24.

The Advertising Council, sponsor of the campaign, outlined plans and displayed artwork for the 1955 program to cooperating organizations and agencies. In attendance were representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers, American Forest Products Industries, American Forestry Association, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, National Board of Fire Underwriters, National Fire Protection Association, Sports Fishing Institute, National Wildlife Federation, Associated Tobacco Manufacturers, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Lumber Manufacturers Association, Society of American Foresters, National Commission on Safety Education, Institute of Life Insurance, Izaak Walton League, Saturday Evening Post, CBS, White House, Forest Service and State Foresters from North Carolina, Kentucky, and Colorado.

Mr. Benson presented a plaque to Theodore Repplier, president of the Council, for the leadership and help his agency has given the Smokey Bear campaign. The Forest Service Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention unit received the Superior Service Award in May of this year.

Secretary Benson said he planned to keep the Smokey Bear doll in his office, that is, unless one of his daughters got hold of it.

Farm Safety Week

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Ezra Taft Benson has called attention of all employees to the observance of National Farm Safety Week, July 25-31. President Eisenhower's proclamation pointed out the heavy toll in death and injury among farm people and requested farm residents to develop work habits and skills to avoid accidents.

Secretary Benson restates last year's program, to cut the farm accident rate in half by 1963, and calls upon all agencies and field offices to assist local committees in every way to bring safety measures to the attention of the people. Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, with assistance of the Federal Extension Service, the Office of Information, and the Department Safety Council, will participate in National Farm Safety Week. President Eisenhower and Secretary Benson have been invited to attend the National Farm Safety luncheon in Washington July 24. Programs will be broadcast over two nationwide hookups.

4-H Club Camp

THE NATIONAL 4-H Club camp held in Washington in June brought 300 delegates and leaders to the capital for a cordial welcome. Special events were the visit of the 4-H young people to the White House, where they were received by President Eisenhower, and a meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, who was presented with the "Helping Hand" painting, which is reproduced on the 4-H calendar. The picture will be hung in the National 4-H Club center at Chevy Chase, when the Center is opened at the National 4-H home. Secretary Benson told the young farm people he hoped the 4-H program would continue to grow in numbers and in public service. Another visit took the club members to Capitol Hill, where they met the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the House Committee on Agriculture.

Slow Down and Live!

Eleven States of the Northeast have issued a small circular "1954 Watchwords" welcoming motorists and asking them for cooperation in observing traffic laws and courtesies of the highways. Thirteen Southern States have joined them in a unified project proclaimed by their Governors. Watch for your copy—and note the appeal: "Slow Down and Live."

Mentor R. W. Harned retiring

Dr. Robey W. Harned, of the Entomology Research Branch, is retiring July 16 after 23 years' service with the Department of Agriculture. He joined the Department after 25 years of teaching, largely at Mississippi State College, and it is said that at one time 80 percent of the entomologists in the bureau were trained by Dr. Harned. He received his technical training at Ohio State University and at Cornell. His coworkers in Washington will hold a reception for him in room 6962, South Building, at 3:30 o'clock on the 16th, inviting Dr. Harned's friends.

Connecticut Field Day, Aug. 18

The annual field day of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will be held August 18 at the experimental farm at Mt. Carmel. Special emphasis will be placed on studies of plant diseases, on which the station has a very active research program.

Stations war on disease

PROGRESS IN a concentrated effort to solve problems of animal diseases is summarized in the latest annual report of the Office of Experiment Stations, off the press this month. One station estimates that loss in animals and the lowered production from infected stock and poultry has ranged as high as \$2,791,000,000 in a single year.

Dr. R. W. Trullinger, Assistant Administrator of ARS for the Office of Experiment Stations, makes it clear, however, that it is impossible to tell accurately how large the losses are from disease, parasitism, and abnormal conditions in industries that yield 56 percent of the farmers' income. Newcastle disease alone is estimated to have cost the poultry industry \$40,000,000 a year. The estimates do indicate, "that disease presents a major economic obstacle that must be hurdled before the ever-increasing demands for meat and livestock products are met. . . . Research seeks to establish, beyond any element of doubt, the facts and truths on which we may rely to preserve our health, develop our resources, and to solve those problems that stand in the way of human advantage and achievement."

Total Federal funds available to the State agricultural experiment stations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1953, amounted to \$12,587,329. The 1953 expenditures of non-Federal funds which include State appropriations, research grants, and income from other sources totaled \$61,970,921, compared with \$56,883,853 in 1952. The 1953 expenditures by all the stations approximated \$5.05 for each \$1 of Federal grants. (Printed copies of the report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D. C. Price 50 cents.)

Light on Crop Reporting

HOW DOES the Crop Reporting Board of USDA get its information on over 150 crop commodities, in order to figure prices and parities? And how do they calculate parity? In his monthly letter to crop and livestock reporters, June issue of *Agricultural Situation*, Sterling R. (Bert) Newell, the board chairman, AMS, raises the blind this way:

"The nub of it comes in the collection of prices that go to make up the computation, and that's where we and the price reporters come in for a real job. Briefly, the job consists of collecting two principal kinds of prices. First, there are the prices the farmer gets for the commodities he sells. There are nearly 200 commodities on which we collect these prices through our State statisticians' offices. Upward of 10,000 well-informed farmers, produce dealers at local shipping points, country mill and elevator operators, managers of local cooperative organizations, and country bankers make reports to us on farm commodity prices. They report regularly on the 15th of the month on the average prices being received in their local areas for the principal farm commodities being sold.

"To compare with these prices of the things the farmer sells, we then collect prices on over 300 different items that farmers buy, including interest and taxes paid on real estate, and wages paid to hired labor. Many thousands of storekeepers of all kinds cooperate with us by supplying information on the prices of these items.

"Their reports, just like yours, go into the State statisticians' offices where the prices are tabulated and averages computed for each item. Each of these two groups of prices—the prices farmers receive and the prices they pay—are then combined into what we call indexes, and it is the comparison of the index of prices received with that for prices paid that gives us the information as to how farmers are faring in the marketing of their crops and livestock. And it is from this source that we are able to compute the all-important parity ratio."

Co-ops to meet at Cornell

The 1954 Institute of Cooperation Conference, to meet at Cornell University August 15-19, will have "Agricultural Progress Through Cooperatives" as this year's theme. The co-op president, J. K. Stern, and Dean W. I. Myers and Dr. G. W. Hedlund of the university will welcome all farmers in the cooperative field. Further information can be obtained by writing to Prof. C. M. Bond, American Institute of Cooperation, New York State Agricultural College, 22 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.

USDA: July 14, 1954

The bargaining co-ops

REQUIREMENTS FOR a successful co-operative organization in the bargaining field, methods used by growers' organizations and processors in bargaining, and some of the theories of bargaining are described in a recent publication of the Farmer Cooperative Service General Report 3.

This publication grew out of work carried on jointly by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Farmer Cooperative Service. Written by G. Alvin Carpenter, Utah's Assistant Director of Extension, the report presents a theory of bargaining, as well as many of the techniques of bargaining used by the highly successful Utah Canning Crops Association. It details advantages gained by some methods and the disadvantages of other methods, as well as contributing factors.

The report also outlines the reasons for failure of many attempts to balance production with demand and points out that the individual farmer is seldom sufficiently close to market conditions to be a strong bargainer. From the farmer's standpoint, a cooperative as his representative on the selling side needs to have equivalent bargaining power with the processors on the buying side. Then a price can be reached through the bargaining process comparable to a price attained under competitive conditions existing between buyers and sellers of roughly equal resources.

Certain advantages in addition to price can be provided through efficient operation of bargaining associations. Among them, the report lists the following:

Farmers can provide themselves with essential services; they can make economical use of specialized skill and equipment, themselves concentrating mainly on the production job.

Concentration of volume under one head avoids duplication of certain marketing services, benefiting everyone. Processors can avoid overlapping services in contract sign-up.

Farmers become more familiar with preferences of markets and consumers, and with adequate information, can better adjust their production to needs and demands. They can do for themselves many things which might otherwise be done by the Government. They can arrange for better control of pests and diseases, and for better cultural practices. They can establish good grower-processor relations.

In cooperative bargaining it is wise to

make forthright efforts to reach fair settlements. Capable, well-informed leadership is vitally important to the cooperative's success.

Magazine reprints L. 355

The *Cattleman*, published monthly at Fort Worth, Tex., by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, reprints in its June 1954 issue the complete text and illustrations of the recently published Department of Agriculture Leaflet No. 355, Hyperkeratosis (X-Disease) of Cattle. The leaflet, prepared by the Agricultural Research Service, treats of the noninfectious disease caused when cattle consume or come in contact with oils and greases containing highly chlorinated naphthalene. This chemical wax is added to lubricants used under high pressure and temperature; it causes a fatal "horny-skin" disease of cattle.

Career girl retires

Miss Rozella M. Slaughter, FAS, retired at the end of June after 35 years' service in the Government, all but 6 months in USDA. She was secretary to some of the leading officials of the Department in the course of these years. Her first job, a 3-months vacation appointment counting money for pay envelopes, drew her away from a teaching career in North Dakota to a civil service career in Washington. Her plans call for some trips and continued residence in the capital.

Traffic scholarship

The Traffic Club of Chicago is offering 4 free scholarships in "Traffic Management" to United States residents, 18 years old or over, who have a high school education or the equivalent. Candidates selected may take the course by correspondence. Applicants must be sponsored by a member of the Traffic Club. Winners will be selected on the basis of information supplied in their applications. Further information may be obtained by writing Edward Jay, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Deadline for making application is August 10.

Endrin protects cotton

Endrin, closely related chemically to dieldrin, comes nearer to being an all-purpose cotton insecticide than any other yet tested. It is effective against both boll weevil and bollworm. Used at 8.1 to 8.2 pounds per acre, it is effective against many other insects. The dose for the weevil and the bollworm is approximately twice these strengths. Endrin does not control the pink bollworm or the spider mites. Since it is toxic to man and other warm-blooded animals, it must be used cautiously, according to directions on the container.

Moore heads Dairy Science

Dr. Lane A. Moore, Head of the Nutrition and Physiology Section, Dairy Husbandry Research Branch, LR-ARS, was elected president of the American Dairy Science Association at the association's Golden Anniversary at Pennsylvania State University in June. New Directors elected for 3-year terms were Dr. George Hyatt, Jr., head of the dairy extension staff at North Carolina State College, and Dr. R. E. Hodgson, Chief of Dairy Husbandry Research Branch, USDA.

The will and the work

It is all right for youth to want everything, and to be willing to work for it.

Weed killers gain

WEED CONTROL by the use of herbicides has made great strides in 10 years according to W. B. Ennis, Jr., agronomist, of the State College of Mississippi, in cooperation with the Field Crops Research Branch, ARS. He finds many new organic chemical weed killers, as well as insecticides and fungicides, coming into the picture. Several experiment stations are studying cottonfield problems, including the importance of timely rains or irrigation water to leach the chemical down into the soil to the germinating weed seeds. Precision sprayers and careful operators are required in using the powerful chemicals.

Mr. Ennis expresses strong confidence in the alertness of research men on these jobs. The characteristics of some of the newer chemicals under study indicate that particular herbicides may be manufactured to control definite kinds of weeds under different circumstances in specific crops. "Within a relatively short time the application of herbicides is expected to become an integral part of the production practices on most cotton farms. By the use of chemicals to control weeds and thereby complete the mechanization of cotton, a brighter and more satisfying future for the cotton growers will follow."

NPIP amends rules

THE NATIONAL Poultry Improvement Plan appears to be in for some overhauling, as a result of the poultry conference held in Washington, June 22-25. The conference recommended that parent flocks be given official recognition based upon performance of their progeny in a random sample test. Heretofore only individual birds could qualify, recognition being based on physical characteristics and pedigree. The conference, which has long been fighting against pullorum disease, has now eliminated any tolerance at all of pullorum in a participating flock.

Delegates attended from 46 States. Price Schroeder of Portland, Oreg., was elected chairman of the general conference committee. Paul B. Zumbro, senior poultry coordinator in the Agricultural Research Service, is ex officio member of the committee.

To keep the chips flying

Chips, employees' bulletin at the Forest Products Lab., (FS) Madison, Wisconsin has shut up shop until October, but left the mailbox open. Summer contributions will be welcomed. Nothing beats hot news!

Tribute to Waksman

DR. R. W. TRULLINGER, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Experiment Stations, ARS, attended the dedication of the Institute of Microbiology, at Rutgers University, June 7. Major addresses were made by President L. W. Jones of the University, Dr. S. A. Waksman, director of the institute, and Dr. A. J. Kluyver, of the Technical University, Delft, Holland.

Dr. Waksman began his research studies under the direction of Deans Lipman and Martin, with a small allotment of Federal-grant funds approved by Dr. E. W. Allen, then chief of the Office of Experiment Stations. Having confidence in Dr. Waksman's scientific ability, these men helped to provide a favorable atmosphere and environment where the scientific genius was able to work freely and bring to fruition, as Dr. Trullinger says "one of the outstanding scientific accomplishments in human history,"—contributing to the discovery of the virtues of penicillin and other antibiotics. Dr. Trullinger points out that numerous similar expansions of scientific activity have grown out of Federal-grant agricultural research.

Bailey rings another bell

AT 96, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, long known as dean of American horticulturists, has come out with still another book, *The Garden of Bellflowers*. Dr. Neil W. Stuart, ARS, writes that, at the age of 81, Dr. Bailey began this recording of facts and appreciation of the Campanulas for the book which Stuart says "must be regarded as the best available American source of information on these flowers."

The author explains his interest in the bellflowers "in part because they are not hopelessly confused by hybridization" and because "there is now a persistent effort to cross everything that is crossable until original lines of singularity are lost. * * * One of the satisfactions in gardening is to apprehend these essential marks of separation."

For half a century Dr. Bailey has worked closely with the USDA in exchange of information and working out introduction of new and interesting cultivated plants. Like his encyclopedias, the author's new book will interest taxonomists, students, and gardeners in general. (Macmillan is the publisher.)

Second thought

Second thoughts are ever wiser.—EURIPIDES

Brief and choice

Any idea about french fries?

The Department has formulated tentative standards for grades of frozen french-fried potatoes. About 3½ million bushels of Irish potatoes were used in making this product for the 1953 crop year, and this product is now the second ranking frozen vegetable, next to peas. Color, freedom from defects, and texture of product are the desired qualities. As usual, the Department gives those interested the opportunity to submit their proposals. Closing date is July 20.

Broiler producers organize

The \$775,000,000 broiler industry is organizing a national council to promote economic production and marketing of better broilers. The Broiler Institute at a meeting in Atlanta named a national committee to plan the organization. Jesse Jewell, of Gainesville, Georgia, is chairman. The long-time program calls for people to eat more chicken more often.

Philippines Forest Lab

George M. Hunt, former director of the Forest Products Laboratory (FS) at Madison, Wis., has gone to Manila, Philippine Islands, where he will serve for a year as a forestry officer of FAO. His assignment is to work with representatives of the Philippine Bureau of Forestry to assist in establishing a Philippine Forest Products Laboratory near Manila.

Japanese beetle report

Ohio Valley States are considering quarantine measures against the Japanese beetle, which is more or less prevalent in the eastern coastal areas and three adjacent States. The beetle was not reported last year in any State not previously reporting its presence. A few beetles were collected at airports as far away as Florida and California, but recollection studies did not indicate new footholds. Cooperating States and communities furnished most of the labor and materials for foliage sprays. The Japanese Beetle Control Project reports that 275 kinds of plants are attacked in fruit and foliage, and many more are damaged by the grubs underground. Some damage to soybeans has occurred in small areas, and corn silks have been attacked in others. Parasites, milky disease, and sprays have greatly reduced beetle populations in some of the infested areas.

Dr. W. M. Mohler dies

Dr. William M. Mohler, veterinarian in the Pathological Division, Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, died June 9. He was a graduate of Indiana Veterinary College and of George Washington University. He began working for the Department in 1914, and participated in the suppression of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and other livestock scourges. Dr. Mohler was a son of Dr. John R. Mohler, for many years chief of the former Bureau of Animal Industry.

Irrigation water prospects

The southwestern quarter of the United States for the most part appears to be short of irrigation water this year. The rainfall and snowpack was light in winter and spring, except in some high mountain areas. Most of the Northwest, however, appears to be well supplied, and the Columbia River will be fed by an unusually heavy snowpack. But the Colorado, Arkansas, and Rio Grande may not rise above 60 to 70 percent of normal. The irrigation situation is critical in some States, especially where this year's shortage follows drought conditions last year.

Thoughts in season

YOU SIT in your cool quiet garden at sunset and watch the nighthawk riding the breeze, beating his wings for a moment, then soaring on the buoyant air—work and rest, work and rest, in perfect rhythm. It puts a spurt into its work in order to earn the rest. For it must labor to fly and feed, and must have periods of rest to keep going, endlessly and untiring.

It is so with the feet and lungs of man, and the heart is still for an instant between beats. The brain may flash brilliant ideas, but will it do its best without regular "feeding," recreation, and sleep? The mind and spirit of man must have their periods of quiescence. As Whitman said: "I loafe and invite my soul."

Rhythm of action has its advantages, also its perils. Habit can be dangerous to the flier and the fast driver on the highway or on the monotonous racecourse. Once you fall into the beat, it is hard to be always mentally alert. The steady, plodding administrator, editor, writer, or typist needs to catch a breath and take a change of pace. Something reminds us it is time for the "coffee break," or the chilled milk!

Perhaps you live from bell to bell and deadline to deadline, as a book rides on from incident to incident or chapter to chapter. Or you may be happier living from act to act, achievement to achievement. Day by day you hit your stride, and hope there will be few interruptions. Yet if the interruption helps to orient you, it can speed you toward your goal. At any rate you can't bar a public door, and don't want to cut a committee!

Sometimes you dread the hour with 40 other wise men yawning in committee, spending time that most of you will have to make up tomorrow. In your office you may want to flee the nonstop monologist, and the walking conscience who reveals all and leaves you nothing to surmise. In such dark moments you cry inwardly: "Give us a break."

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 28, 1954

To keep, or not to keep

A BOX of noncurrent files of the Department of Agriculture turned over to General Services Administration for storage in June was the 1 millionth cubic foot of records so transferred to the region 3 record center at Alexandria by Government agencies since this service was set up in 1950. GSA was represented at the formal transfer by William A. Miller, regional director of GSA; and the Department was represented by Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary, and Terry J. McAdams, Assistant Director, Plant and Operations. The cubic-foot box, a standard size adopted for economical storage, was filled with papers from the Rural Electrification Administration. The papers will be held accessible, as needed, for reference; in time they will be salvaged as wastepaper.

Ever since the National Archives was established in 1934, and before that, the Government has had to wrestle with the problem of keeping old records. National Archives still receives most of those of enduring worth and historical value. But the run-of-the-mill files generally lose their practical value in a very few years, and the district center, in Alexandria, Va., receives them—to preserve them briefly or indefinitely, as agreed upon by the agencies, or as acted upon by Congress. Personnel records of former civilian employees, running back for as much as a century, are kept at the St. Louis special center. It takes 80 employees to run the Washington center, and in the last 4 years they have indexed the boxes, made them available for consultation, and finally disposed of 1,800 tons of wastepaper.

"Basic to economical records management," Director Miller says, "is low-cost storage and inexpensive equipment. . . . The yearly savings run to 2 or 3 times as much as the present center's annual cost of \$600,000." The Department of Agriculture sends in far fewer boxes than Internal Revenue Service, General Accounting Office, or the Bureau of the

Census. Director Miller praised USDA for its "excellent and energetic" records program and sound records management, saying: "The high standard in the Department is an outstanding example of records control."

Arthur E. Young, Deputy Regional Director, said the savings in the last 4 years amounted to \$2,837,000, and 51,700 file cabinets and 50,500 transfer cabinets have been released for reuse. The record boxes cost 10 cents each, and hold the equivalent of the contents of a steel cabinet drawer worth about \$12.50.

On an average, 1 box in every 3 is opened each year. Consulting may be done by staff members, or in a search room by agency personnel. If a box contained 50 files—what would be the chances it would ever be consulted? To the agency and GSA archivists and to Congress goes the decision—to keep, or not to keep.

Government careers

CIVIL SERVICE Chairman Philip S. Young, speaking to a group of Government personnel officials recently, made a plea for strengthening the career service, saying that in the final analysis the career service depends upon the quality of career employees, the ability of administrators, and the support of the American people.

"We cannot have," he said, "a strong and stable career service unless all our people are willing to support it all the way. We cannot have it unless every one of us is truly dedicated to the career ideals. . . . We cannot expect people to make careers of Government employment unless we provide a climate in which morale, teamwork, and job satisfaction can flourish. A high turnover rate is costly and inefficient, but it is all we can expect if we appoint good people and then just forget about them. Good management-employee relations also bring about increased productivity, and higher prestige for the Federal service."

Calling Biologists

BIOLOGY HAS to do with all living things, and agricultural products can be meat and drink for an assortment of pests ranging from micro-organisms to mammals. One of the acute problems of the months ahead, for instance, is the protection of stored grain. To the Biological Sciences Branch of the Marketing Research Division, AMS, falls a large share of this responsibility. The Chief of the Branch is Dr. Geo. W. Irving, Jr., Assistant Chief Dr. Charles E. Sando. The biologists of this group must fight weevils, mildews, rots, and beetles. Loss caused by any one of a score of insect pests or diseases could run into the millions.

In reorganization of the Department the problem of protecting the quality of farm products after harvest and through all channels to the consumer was recognized as one of the most important to be faced. Accordingly the Biological Services Branch was set up and authorized to conduct basic and applied biological research to ascertain causes of quality changes and to devise means for the measurement and control of quality. It is observed that quality is usually best at harvest (eggs)—exceptions, those crops that improve as they ripen or cure (tomatoes, tobacco).

The Branch is organized into three sections—Quality Maintenance and Improvement Section, Stored Product Insects Section, and Quality Evaluation Section. The Quality Maintenance section is now confining its studies of physiological and pathological changes found in market channels to horticultural products, but will extend its work to other commodities. It is planned to devise practical means for maintenance of quality of products, promoting desirable changes, such as ripening, and preventing undesirable changes, such as rotting. The section consists essentially of the former Handling, Transportation and Storage Division of the Old Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Section Head, W. T. Pentzer, physiologist, and Assistant Head, Harold T. Cook, pathologist, are located at Beltsville, Md. Research is conducted at Beltsville and the following 10 field stations: New York City; Orlando, Fla.; Chicago, Ill.; East Grand Forks, Minn.; Meridian, Miss.; Harlingen, Texas; Pomona, Calif.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Fresno, Calif.; and Wenatchee, Wash.

The Stored Product Insects Section, in basic study and development of controls for pests, has overall objectives of

killing the insects present or preventing initial infestation of the product. The latter is most important in view of the present large stockpiles of agricultural products that must be protected from insects for much longer storage periods than has been customary.

Added impetus is given to this protection by the progressively more strict regulations of the Food and Drug Administration with respect to the presence of insect fragments in food products. The section consists of the former Stored-Product Insects Investigations Division of the former Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Section Head, Randall Latta, entomologist, and Assistant Head, Lyman Henderson, entomologist, are located in Washington. Work is conducted in Washington and eight stations in the field, including Savannah, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Tifton, Ga.; Houston, Tex.; Fresno, Calif.; Manhattan, Kans.; Madison, Wis.; Moorestown, N. J.

The Quality Evaluation Section is for some the most intriguing group in the branch, carrying as it does the assignment of seeking new principles for establishing *objective* quality tests to supplant present *subjective* tests. The project is being approached realistically through biological, chemical, physical, and engineering research. Dr. Sando is Acting Head of the section. Work is conducted at Washington, Beltsville, and so far, at three locations in the field, including College Station, Tex.; Baton Rouge, La.; and Davis, Calif. The major part of the work of the Section is still delegated to other agencies of the Department, including cotton, grain, seed, meat and milk units. Three functioning units now definitely part of the section are: Poultry (Dr. Lyle Davis), fruit and vegetable (Norman Healy), engineering (Karl Norris).

Plans of the Branch call for assuring the establishment of a hard core of fundamental research from which should flow new principles in developing procedures and devices for quality maintenance and measurement. All possible help will be accepted from other USDA agencies, to avoid duplication of effort, and the Branch will strive to facilitate rapid flow of research accomplishment to all service groups.

The Branch has available nine Department publications on plant diseases of different crop groups. Section bulletins on stored grain insects are considered authoritative throughout the world. Handbook 66, a revision of Commercial Storage of Fruits and Vegetables, Ornamentals and Nursery Stock has been sent to press. Other achievements of the

Branch include the development of procedures for protecting stored tobacco from insect infestation, making savings from which as much as \$2 million in taxes are returned to the United States Treasury; egg-sorting machines that may obviate the need of hand candling; and better methods for DDT treatment of woollens to control moths and carpet beetles.

White-silk sweet corn

WE HEAR so much about improved strains and hybrids of feed crops that we are likely to overlook improvements in food crops. The Department and Purdue University more than 20 years ago developed a better sweet corn—Golden Cross Bantam. The variety was so satisfactory fresh and for canning and so adaptable that it is now grown in most of the countries of the world. It takes 5 million pounds of seed a year for planting. Most of the seed is grown in Idaho under irrigation.

The farm value of the sweet corn crop in the United States amounted to \$36,000,000 in 1952. Quality of sweet corn is constantly being improved by hybridization. Resistance to disease is an important requirement; in 1953 there was heavy losses from bacterial wilt in the Northern States east of the Mississippi. Smut was also prevalent. It takes at least 5 years for the plant breeders to develop a new hybrid corn and put it into production. Some of the new hybrids have white silks, making for improved appearance of canned corn. One of the popular white-silk hybrids released by Purdue and the USDA in 1952 has higher yields and resistance to wilt than the original Bantam.

Brief and choice

First-aid training course

A call for volunteers to train for first aid has been sent out by Director of Personnel MacHenry Schafer. Perry H. Colmann, AMS, has been named first aid coordinator, to receive from agency heads the names of all who volunteer. Mr. Schafer presents the situation as follows:

About 550 of our employees will need to be trained to man the 11 first-aid stations that have been established in Washington, D. C. Twenty-two of these employees will be trained as instructors. The course will take 45 hours. The rest of the volunteers will be trained in a basic first-aid course that will take 22 hours. Much time will be saved if those who have had previous training volunteer, since they will need only refresher courses. Employees who participate will not be charged with leave.

South Carolina quarterly

A new publication, *South Carolina Agricultural Research*, brings to 32 the total of popular publications issued by experiment

stations. It is a quarterly designed to supply the farmers and agricultural workers of the State current information about the station's work.

Haunting old house beetles

If you wake up in the night and hear a slight clicking sound in the wall, your home may be suffering an invasion by the old house borer. The house does not have to be old; it sometimes happens that exposed lumber used in construction has been infested with this borer or some of its related powder-post beetles.

Once settled in their haunts, old house beetles may be difficult to get rid of. Whether or not you need a fumigation specialist may be gleaned from a new publication, USDA Leaflet 358, *Powder-post Beetles in Buildings—What to Do About Them*. The leaflet was prepared in the Division of Forest Insect Research of the Forest Service. Copies are available from the Office of Information.

Charles M. Arthur retires

Charles M. Arthur, Editor of Scientific Publications, Division of Publications, Office of Information, is retiring at the end of July. A graduate of Penn State University, holding also a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota, Mr. Arthur joined the Department in Washington, transferred to the Department of Commerce, and then the Office of Education. He also spent some years in Extension work and in the newspaper field. In March 1944 he joined the Division of Publications. He won recognition for his strong adherence to good style and clear presentation of research findings.

Report on Summer School

First report to reach us from the five Regional Extension Summer schools comes from Prairie View, Texas, A. & M. College. There 66 Negro county farm and home demonstration agents from 12 Southern States were in attendance, June 7-26. Sherman Briscoe, USDA information specialist, was one of the instructors. Other members of the teaching staff came from Texas A. & M. College and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Sessions also are held this summer at Cornell, Wisconsin, Colorado, and the University of Arkansas.

Violation of Futures Act

Convicted of swindling four women customers out of more than \$26,000 under pretense of dealing in commodity futures for them, Charles B. Grady, of Chicago, was sentenced to 2 years in jail and was fined \$5,000 in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, June 7. The jury convicted the defendant on eight counts, CEA reports.

Exhibits now in South Building

Exhibits Service, of the Office of Information, has moved from the old headquarters on C Street to the basement of the departmental South Building. The business office will be in room 0344, Harris Baldwin, Chief of the Service, announces.

Shares his prosperity

Ott Todd, county 5-acre cotton contest winner of Spartanburg County, S. C., is now sharing his cottonseed with his neighbors at a nominal price to help them get better cotton yields on their small farms, reports County Agent R. C. Smith of the South Carolina Extension Service. Mr. Todd farms near Woodruff, and is considered one of the outstanding Negro farmers of his county.

His cotton yield averages 354 pounds per acre 50 pounds above the county average. Two years ago, he won the county 5-acre con-

test, with a yield of 640 pounds per acre. He always shares seed with his neighbors. As a result, the cotton yield in the community has been increased, the county agent reports.

Simplified chewing

R. G. Wiggans, Ph. D., '15, Plant Breeding, has come up with an early maturing, highly expandible, tender popcorn to replace others that are large-kernelled with a tough pericarp. It's that pericarp that gets between your teeth.

—Cornell Alumni Letter

The life in Venice (Fla.)

Parke G. Haynes, who retired after many years' service as chief of the Division of Employment, Office of Personnel, writes from Venice, Florida, that he is making progress building a house. Also that he has tried out the outboard motor presented him by fellow employees and that it tunes up fine and seems to have a fascination for the fish.

Ranger 'Rithmetic

The Forest Service has put out a new issue of its educational booklet *Ranger 'Rithmetic*, for use by teachers in the seventh grade. There are 21 problems, and 21 answers, and 24 illustrations. The figures are brought up to date; still, we are going to ask about that cabin (Problem 3) that rents for \$1.65 per day.

Soule on CSS job

APPOINTMENT OF Harris W. Soule, of Burlington, Vt., as Northeast Area Director for Commodity Stabilization Service, was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, July 7. Mr. Soule takes responsibility for administration of production adjustment and price support programs through the farmer committee system in the 13 States of the northeastern area—Virginia to Maine. Born on a Vermont farm and graduated from the University of Vermont, Mr. Soule served 13 years in the Vermont Extension Service and 12 years in stabilization and conservation work and has gained wide experience in agriculture and civic organization activities.

Ubiquitous turkey

MORE THAN 56 million turkeys were produced in 1953, about 7 percent less than in 1952, Agricultural Marketing Service reports. The progeny of the native wildfowl is now truly national in production. It is raised in every State and in substantial numbers in every geographic region, according to the new Agricultural Statistics, 1953. AMS also reports that 6 States, in order, California, Minnesota, Virginia, Iowa, Texas, and Oregon, produced 28 percent of the crop, North Central States 24, South Atlantic 17, East North Central 13, South Central 10, and North Atlantic 8.

USDA: July 28, 1954

That is not to say that the spacious West is more thickly populated with turkeys or with consumers of turkey than the North Atlantic States, for example. The solid-pack eastern square mile has the edge. If you figure this out, the most important thing you will have proved, is that turkey, once just a holiday treat, has become popular meat any time anywhere in the United States. The grower, knowing this, lets no obstacle of climate stand in the way of producing turkeys.

The Poultry and Egg National Board and the National Turkey Federation, with the cooperation of other industry groups, retail food organizations, and USDA, will conduct a merchandising campaign July 28–August 8. The period will be called Midsummer Turkey Time.

Rural Lines makes debut

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, of *Rural Lines*, the new monthly magazine of Rural Electrification Administration, landed in our midst about July 4 sizzling with new suggestions and illustrations charged with humor. The articles are brief, and cover practical topics. Under varying conditions over wide areas, the use of electricity and the amount of loans for cooperative developments made large gains last year. In an Ozark drouth area where farm ponds were said to be only a source of dust, most farm owners increased their use of electricity. In a sometimes stormy section of Florida, REA-financed telephone lines went underground when several miles of trench was plowed, cable fed into the ditch, and buried 30 inches deep, all in one operation. Really nothing fantastic about these operations, just the day-to-day and month-to-month achievements in the REA program.

In introducing the new publication, Ancher Nelsen, Administrator of REA, calls attention to the program for a free flow of information, both ways. "We shall continue to have information available to anyone who will ask for it . . . and we are working to stimulate a flow of information from borrowers to us . . . we will do our best to make *Rural Lines* interesting and useful."

Spirit of Cotton

The "Spirit of Cottonmakers Jubilee" for 1954 was brought to Washington May 4th by Miss Juana Hendricks and Mrs. R. Q. Venson to contribute to wider use of cotton products. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson greeted the visitors and praised them for work that may help to reduce the cotton surplus. At a luncheon meeting in the South Building, Miss Hendricks modeled numerous garments made of beautiful cotton cloth, and was acclaimed by representatives of civic groups and USDA employees. She also modeled a garden costume and a Haitian fiber hat as wide as an umbrella.

Praises USDA Blood Donors

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA blood donors have rendered great service this year, and the Department of Agriculture rates "excellent." Major General Lewis B. Hershey, Volunteer Chairman of the Government Recruitment Committee, Washington Regional Blood Center, writes to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson as follows:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The Director of the District of Columbia Blood Program has informed me of the excellent performance of the Department of Agriculture in the Blood Program.

Since the cessation of hostilities in Korea, there has been a lessening of interest in this vital community program. While this may be understandable, it is alarming to all who are aware of the constant need for blood. The supply continues far below the heavy demand for blood for civilian requirements, for national emergency reserves and the large number of sick and wounded in our military and veterans hospitals. Also, the need for blood is constantly increasing as medical research discovers new uses for blood derivatives.

I deeply appreciate all of the work that you have done in this great undertaking. And I cannot stress too strongly the importance of your continuing to maintain a high standard of performance in the blood donor program.

Sincerely,

LEWIS B. HERSHEY,
Major General, U. S. A.

The Washington Center is a branch of the American Red Cross, which conducts the blood bank on a nationwide scale, offering services at many field offices and within reach of USDA employees everywhere. Arrangements for USDA donations in Washington are made through the Health Unit, Room 1038, South Building, Extension 3281. Miss Anne McFadden is the head nurse. The USDA branch is in charge of Dr. Melvin T. Johnson. In addition to many donors who make their contributions when the bloodmobile is here, some donors are currently sent to the Red Cross Center. Dr. Johnson reminds us that "there is at present no margin of supply for catastrophe." He credits 2 USDA people, namely, E. E. Brown, CSS, with 44 pints of blood since 1942, and Leonard Garroway, AMS, 48 pints since 1943.

Thoughts in season

DOG DAYS are presented warmly every summer, though they do not arrive and depart on exact dates. Greek astronomers, English scholars, early American writers, and very late American almanacmakers are far from agreement on the dates.

The old Greeks believed that the stars directly influenced men's lives. And the "influence" of the Dog Star was nettling, at least. Anyway the heliacal rising of the star in conjunction with the rising of the sun was expected to bring the hottest and most unwholesome time of the year. But complications arose, for there were two dog stars, Sirius (the greater) and Procyon (the lesser). So now we can have our dog days begin anytime from July 3 to July 27, and last anywhere from 30 to 54 days.

If you have your own almanac—or your individual view on such things as weather—you don't have to agree on the dates. But let nobody tell you dog days are just imaginary! The bad and the good days may be as uncertain as the wind and the season, as mysterious as the stars, but dog days by whatever name are real and firmly established in the minds and writings of men. Carpenter in 1629 seemed depressed by summer heat, when he penned: "What then shall we expect in these dogge-days of the world's declining age?" And Washington Irving wrote "The town was subject to midsummer fancies and dog-day whimwhams." Thoreau, however, apparently enjoyed hearing a "dog-day locust." Not all days of the period are hot or unpleasant, not all swimming holes are scummed over and stagnant, not all wild things are blind, not all dogs are cross though some neglected fellows have reason to be irritable!

Since the dog is so oddly, perhaps unwillingly, drawn in—and by the dog survey-census there are some 22 millions of him—a little special attention and kindness toward each and every, would raise to astronomical height the sum of happiness of man and beast.

If a man cannot take his annual leave just now, he may well look forward to quiet days afield in mellowing autumn. By sticking to his job and making the best of whatever the weather allows, he can forget about Dog Star influences, and banish his envy of other fellows skipping pellmell to the beach or troop-ing up the mountain trail.

"Letter clinics"

Some USDA offices are holding letter clinics as a means of improving correspondence.

El Campo PCA celebrates

El Campo Production Credit Association, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, attracted the highest percentage of membership ever to attend a PCA stockholders' meeting in Texas. And naturally El Campo is a little proud. The Washington office of the Farm Credit Administration points out that the 73-percent attendance wasn't any accident. Results were achieved by a spontaneous effort of the membership, which began to promote the celebration over a year ago. Stockholders were mobilized, PCA wives provided a separate program. The program and the barbecue plans were set up in the beginning, and no opportunity was lost to advertise them. "Candidates" for association offices were announced early. Newspapers were enlisted, and even reminder notices were mailed out three days prior to the event. It's no wonder that one county had 100 percent representation, and that El Campo broke an old percentage record for Texas set by Amarillo years ago.

Dr. Truog retires

Dr. Emil Truog, from 1939 to 1953 Chairman of the Department of Soils, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin, retired July 1. Forty years ago Dr. Truog, who had joined the College of Agriculture staff as a graduate assistant in 1909, developed the first practical inexpensive soil test. Not only has he served the alma mater of his native State for 45 years, he has also given leadership and inspiration to many students who are now leaders in the field of soil science and are contributing to the fund of knowledge of the Nation's soil. Dr. Truog is president of the Soil Science Society of America.

Wins renown by editing

Associate Prof. Anna C. Glover, editor of publications at the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois, will retire September 1. Miss Glover began her land-grant college career in 1910 as secretary to Dean Eugene Davenport. In 1915 she became manager of publications, a title later changed to editor of publications. She was named associate professor in 1945. The quality of an experiment station's research is reflected in the content of its publications. The high regard generally held for the Illinois station's research speaks well for Miss Glover's insight and the thoroughness of her editorial participation.

Talk about ice cream

Dairy product prices have declined more than the prices of feed concentrates in the last year. And the late season has required heavy feeding of concentrates. The retail prices of most dairy products have not come down as fast as milk and cream prices received by the farmer.

The Agricultural Outlook Digest (AMS) reported June 24, as follows: Except for butter, reductions in prices paid farmers for manufacturing milk have not yet been fully passed through to retail level. The decline in American cheese and evaporated milk has been less than half the drop in support prices. Prices of ice cream in pint containers are down only slightly, though in many parts of the country substantial reductions have been made for purchases in larger containers. Further declines in consumer prices are expected.

How times have changed!

MILLIONS OF farm people today watch eagerly for new ideas and farming methods, timely information, and detailed instruction and facts about the jobs they are doing. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, the State colleges, publishers of farm papers, and television and radio broadcasters are well aware of this, and do the best they can to keep up with the demand. It was not ever thus.

About 200 years ago, Ben Franklin is reported to have bought 50 copies each of "Essays on Field Husbandry" by the celebrated Connecticut farmer and writer, Jared Eliot, planning to give them to farmer friends. They turned the books down, saying: "We want no information on husbandry; we know all about it. Give us labor; we want not your books of information."

Regional 4-H, Aug. 9-16

MANY FEDERAL and State Extension Service officials are busy completing the details for the seventh annual Regional 4-H Club camp to be held August 9-16 at Jackson College, Jackson, Miss. About 125 outstanding Negro rural boys and girls from the 17 Southern and Border States will be delegates to the encampment. From Washington, Edward W. Aiton and George Foster of the 4-H and YMW programs, Miss Mena Hogan of the Division of Home Economics, Photographer Edwin Hunton, Radio Specialist Joe Tonkin, and Information Specialist Sherman Briscoe will all be there. Dr. John W. Mitchell, National leader of Negro Extension work, is directing the event. Director Clay Lyle of the Mississippi Extension Service and members of his staff, together with President Jacob Reddix and the teachers of Jackson college, are playing host to the encampment.

Mahurin back on OPEDA Staff

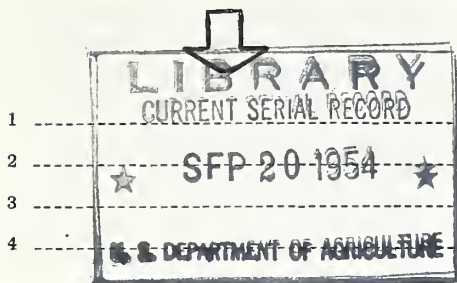
Les Mahurin, formerly of Budget and Finance and other agencies of the Department and Executive Officer of OPEDA last year, back from a long sojourn in Florida, has resumed the organization job temporarily.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 11, 1954

Publications policy

ASSISTANT SECRETARY J. Earl Coke, chairman of the Publications Review Committee, has appointed four subcommittees to assist in the work of his committee. These committees have been asked to review publications and publication policies and planning and make recommendations for improvement.

To study the publication needs of farm family and other audiences, Mr. Coke announces appointment of the Committee on Popular Publications, composed as follows: L. A. Schlup, FES, chairman; Dana Parkinson, FS; D. G. Hall, ARS; and H. P. Mileham, Inf. The Committee on Technical Publications, for highly technical, scientific, and academic audiences, is composed as follows: E. G. Moore, ARS, chairman; R. T. Hall, FS; Ruth Nordin, SCS; H. C. Knoblauch, ARS; and E. E. Houseman, AMS.

The Committee on Intermediate and Miscellaneous Publications (for professional, business, technical, general, and special audiences) consists of: D. H. Simms, SCS, chairman; J. B. Hasselman, CSS; Ralph Fulghum, FES; W. P. Meyer, ARS; Kermit Overby, REA; and R. A. Hollis, Inf. Committee on Periodicals: Franklin Thackrey, AMS, chairman; B. E. Stanton, FCS; J. H. McCormick, Inf.; K. W. Olson, FAS; and R. C. Scott, FES.

The subcommittees are expected to develop recommendations on publications policies and present them to the Department Committee. At least a dozen points of policy based on public needs are to be covered. Information will be obtained from the publications committees established in each agency of the Department.

Objectives of Publications Review have already been set forth in the Secretary's Memoranda Nos. 1348 and 1349, emphasizing economy and integration with needs and programs of the land-grant colleges and private industry in the interest of greater public service.

Each subcommittee is expected to review the present situation, define present and potential audiences, area, and subject to be covered; to determine what purposes are to be served, what departmental and agency series are needed; and to establish standards of length, readability, and presentation. The problems of basic distribution, free or sales, promotion, size of issues, time element, and the integration of public with private industry and land-grant college programs are also to be met.

Plum Island research

DEPARTMENT SCIENTISTS this month began intensive studies at the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory to learn more about some of the most destructive diseases known in livestock—those caused by the vesicular viruses. Among these is the dread foot-and-mouth disease.

An Army Post for more than 50 years, Plum Island, 3 miles long and 1 mile wide, lies off the northeastern point of Long Island, N. Y. It was chosen for the research because it lends itself to the rigid safety measures that will be required for the studies. Careful and detailed procedures have been worked out to make this one of the most isolated and secure laboratories in the world. The research is in facilities made available by the Army Chemical Corps of the Department of Defense.

Use of the existing buildings on Plum Island has already pushed the beginning of the animal disease research about 2 years ahead of the original schedule. The work will not reach full scale however, until the new laboratory now under construction is completed—in about 18 months. Studies will include numerous objectives, such as improvements in methods of diagnosis, how the viruses are passed from one animal to another, development of more effective vaccines, and such fundamentals as the chemical and physical properties of viruses. Dr. Maurice S. Shahan, ARS, is in charge.

Mail room cogitations

SUPERVISOR OF MAIL George H. Mack, Central Mail Room, AMS, is given to speed and dispatch; he is also given to brief periods of pleasant cogitation of the ebb and flow of mail, which often rises with an unaccountable surge, then sinks to a trickle. Then Mr. Mack reflects: "Something must have happened."

"Sometimes" he says "we get a letter from an old friend from whom we have not heard in a long time. What makes him write? Something may have happened, or did the fellow just take a notion to write to you! Government mail is like that." Yet Mr. Mack believes that in the fluid volume of Department mail you can read something of the interlocking and corresponding interests of Government and its people. Our people are always writing to our Government, one thing or another, new writers and old hands, somewhat fewer in good times, a few more in bad times.

There was an islander who wrote year after year offering the Government a sure-fire weather forecaster. Finally, he tired of the effort to make an impression, and offered the invention to the mailman for his trouble. Another correspondent, full of the subject of economics, sent in some 10 pages a week for more than a year—for some long-suffering official to digest.

"We have to measure volume in units as large as truckloads," says the supervisor. In the first 19 weeks after the birth of the new AMS central mail unit, this group received 873 bags of letters, besides 1,952 parcels, and sent out as much. This could mean receiving 4,784 bags and 10,712 parcels a year, weighing all told some half-million pounds. Five messengers, on five regularly scheduled routes aggregating about 10 miles, daily deliver this mail. They hope they never have a 100,000-pound day."

One of the jobs of the mail supervisors is that of "demoneying" the mail. All kinds of enclosures, some large, most of them small, come over the counter; and spotting remittances is a major responsibility. In the 19-week period mentioned, the remittances amounted to \$2,378,225.46. The money is carefully protected, checked, recorded on film in the Central Mail Room, and delivered to the Fiscal Section by a bonded employee.

Grain beetle threat

THE KHAPRA beetle, most recent addition to the list of stored-grain pests in the United States, can do enormous damage, but there is strong reason to hope it will be stopped before it can enter the warehouses of the principal grain belts, according to Dr. Richard T. Cotton, Stored Grain Insect Specialist of the Biological Sciences Branch, AMS. Nevertheless, the beetle is about the worst threat to stored grain in many years.

Dr. Cotton, L. J. Padget, and Karl S. Rohwer of Plant Pest Control, ARS, were assigned to assist the Western Plant Board and State pest control officials in making a survey to determine distribution of the insects. Seven Western States participated in the survey, and the beetle was found in 25 locations in 3 States. The original infestation in California has been stamped out, and the Western Plant Board has a quarantine already under consideration, as part of a program for hoped-for complete eradication.

Nearly all stored-grain pests originated in warm countries, but they have been aided in their migration northward by the protection given them in warm bins and buildings. The Khapra beetle of India, often brought to England in steamer shipments, was not at first considered to be of great importance because nobody imagined this tropical "bug" could live in northern cold, but it proved adaptable to living in warehouses, so that now it is found in most of the malting houses in Britain.

The Khapra beetle is hard to kill, since it readily hides in crevices in the walls of buildings. In the West the average dose of insecticide may be doubled for fumigation of carload lots of grain. The beetle is quite adaptable to temperatures between 14° and 104° F., but it has one weakness—it is a feeble migrant and has to be carried to new places.

The beetle came from India to one or two California warehouses about 1946, possibly in burlap bags. Resisting ordinary sprays and fumigations it multiplied in vast numbers and was carried to several centers on burlap bags. It appears now to have spread south through the Imperial Valley to Arizona. Two small shipments of sorghum seed in burlap bags carried infestation to New Mexico, but the entomologists have taken steps to eradicate survivors there.

Incidentally, the lesser grain borer, one of the worst common grain pests

in bins in this country, also came from India, about 100 years ago. Dr. Cotton bases his hope of eradication of the new pest on a vigilant and thorough cooperative program to be carried out by States and the Department.

Heavy applications of DDT in oil, lindane, chlordane, and other insecticides in sprays and fumigations have drastically reduced the numbers of beetles in several places and correspondingly reduced chances of their spreading.

Glimpsing the future

ENLARGING ON the theme "Looking ahead for the career service," the Society for Personnel Administration held its annual conference in Washington early this summer. It was by far the best attended meeting in the history of the society. President Eisenhower welcomed the conference and discussed progress made in improving employee relationships. United States Department of Agriculture speakers included Dr. E. R. Draheim, of the Division of Employee Performance and Development, and president of the Society; Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary; and Earl W. Lovelidge, Assistant Chief Forester.

The Department of Labor was represented by Secretary James L. Mitchell; the United States Civil Service Commission by Chairman Philip Young and others. Speakers also included university presidents, deans, and professors of public administration; personnel directors of leading business concerns; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Departments of Defense; National Bureau of Standards, and other Government offices; employee organizations; newspaper columnists, and industrial-relations officers.

Panels dealt with "The Government Climate," "Training and Careers," and "Mobility and Careers." President Draheim reports that the conference was most "stimulating" and productive of new ideas basic to improving the Federal career service and employees' service to the public.

War on farm fires

Rural Fire Fighters of Montana held a meeting of all cooperating agencies at Bozeman in April and planned a vigorous fire-prevention campaign for the year. USDA was represented by Clarence Strong and Jack Barrows of the Forest Service. Last year's loss in rural property in the State was nearly \$1 million, and construction cost has gone up 15 percent since 1950. R. B. Tootell, recently named Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, USDA, is chairman of the executive committee of the cooperating agencies of the Rural Fire Fighters Service.

New jobs for scientists

A SHIFT of scientific men to point up the sugar crops and soil-plant relations sections has been made at Beltsville, Md. Dr. Hewitt M. Tysdal, plant breeder, becomes head of the Sugar Crops Section, Field Crops Research Branch, ARS, succeeding Dr. Cecil H. Wadleigh, who becomes head of the Soil-Plant Relationship Section of the Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch, also of ARS.

Dr. Tysdal started his Department work with alfalfa at the Nebraska Station and had charge of alfalfa research at the Beltsville station, and at one time of the guayule rubber project in California. Dr. Wadleigh, prior to coming to Beltsville, was on the scientific staff of the Salinity Laboratory, at Riverside, Calif., and earlier taught agronomy at the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Tysdal's crossing of alfalfa produced the resistant Ranger variety, and other scientists in the Department have used his methods to improve sugar beets. He holds degrees from the universities of Saskatchewan, Kansas (State), and Minnesota. Dr. Wadleigh is known in research fields for his work in plant nutrition, carbohydrate and nitrogen metabolism, water relations, and salt tolerance. He has degrees from Massachusetts State College, Ohio State, and Rutgers.

Making USDA directory

THE DEPARTMENT henceforth is to have a more serviceable directory, issued on a regular annual basis. On advice of the Department Publications Review Committee, on the "Directory of Organization and Field Activities of the Department of Agriculture," Secretary Benson sent out memorandum No. 1360, directing that the book be issued annually, and that it contain more serviceable matter than formerly, to be more useful to the public in transacting business with the Department. Office of Personnel is held responsible primarily for factual material, and for instructing the agencies in uniform preparation. Office of Information will design and prepare the book for publication. The issuance of agency directories will be discontinued, though mimeographed lists necessary for internal administrative purposes may be prepared on an individual office or regional basis. Agencies have been notified and are already at work on preparation of new lists for the directory.

Story of USDA film

ONE OF the films produced by the Motion Picture Service recently for USDA agencies is *Vicious Circle*, a story about avian tuberculosis, done for the Agricultural Research Service. The story was filmed in picturesque Eagle Valley of Southwestern Wisconsin. The forest-clad hills and rich, green pastures of this region offered an ideal background for the scrubbed and manicured farm where most of the "shooting" was done.

Such an ideal locale was purposely chosen to underscore the film's basic tenet—that Avian TB can thrive under conditions seemingly perfect for the maintenance of healthy flocks of poultry and herds of swine.

In the picture, the farm is operated by a young couple who are suddenly confronted with a menace to their security. The story is make-believe; but the problem is real—deadly real. Fortunately, as the couple later learn, the situation isn't hopeless. Avian TB can be licked. They find that practical procedures, calculated to overcome spread of the disease, have already been worked out by State and USDA veterinary scientists.

Production problems of the picture were happily limited to the usual unavoidable disturbances . . . fickle sunlight, wind noise and other unwanted sounds. Satisfactory solutions were worked out, however, with the assistance extended by the farmers, business people, and county officials. On-the-land motion-picture productions would be impossible without local cooperation of this kind.

Promotions at Southern Lab

James A. Kime and Ralph M. Persell have been promoted, respectively, to be assistant to the chief and technical assistant to the chief, of the USDA Southern Utilization Research Branch. Dr. C. E. Fisher, ARS, is chief of the Branch, which includes the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans and six field stations, all doing research on improving and utilizing southern farm crops. Mr. Kime started his career in chemistry with the Department in 1929. He took degrees at Tarkio College, in Missouri, and at George Washington University, in D. C. Mr. Persell, a Mississippian, is a graduate in chemical engineering of Tulane University, in New Orleans. He joined the Laboratory staff in 1946, following 5 years of military service.

Low cow prices cut forest take

Lower prices for timber and livestock for the fiscal year just closed account for \$9 million drop in receipts for the National Forests. Total receipts for the year were \$67,219,619, Forester McArdle reports. There was a considerable increase in recreational use, however.

USDA: August 11, 1954

Safety straps save flier

A set of shoulder straps and a crash helmet enabled Morris Curtis, the only pilot who had to bail out in an emergency landing in spraying 123,000 acres of pine butterfly-infested trees on the Boise National Forest, Idaho, to escape without bodily injury. Horace E. Hedges, the project safety officer, reports that safety phases of the operation have run smoothly. Progress on the 217,000-acre control project, with a high percentage of the insects killed, has enabled the Forest Service to save vast areas of Ponderosa pine. Governor Jordan of Idaho was among those inspecting the operation. Representatives of forestry organizations, also three Turkish foresters studying American fire-fighting methods and safety measures, were among those who followed the big spraying job closely.

Suggestion approved

The Bureau of Management Services Awards Committee has had a steady increase in its activities during the past three years. The suggestions which they've approved have been beneficial to both the employees and the Commission. The "Summer Attire" suggestion submitted by Harvey Dean Brown is the most recent one handled by this committee. It resulted in official approval being given for men in the central office to wear neat short-sleeved shirts without ties at work until cooler weather in September.—Civil Service Commission, *Employees Bulletin*

True hot-weather friend

Some readers may remember when ice cream cones came into vogue. Dallas USDA Club News says 50 years ago, and recommends summer picnic servings of fried chicken and ice cream cones. The News also reminds us that both items are on the AMS Plentiful Food List, and should not be too expensive. On all occasions ice cream is a "friend and can make friends for you—so be a pal to ice-cream during the hot weather months."

The tomato russet mite

The tomato russet mite, so small it takes a 29-power hand lens to see it, spread from the West to the eastern coast in a few years, in some places doing severe damage to the tomato crop. The mites attack all green parts, and even the ripening fruit. Their feeding gives the plants a bronzed appearance, first on the lower leaves as the mites go up the plant feeding on the leaves and killing them. Fortunately, the entomologists, J. Wilcox, of USDA, and A. F. Howland, of California, and others have found that 350-mesh sulfur dust is a satisfactory control. It is necessary, however, to provide heavy washing at the canneries to remove the fine sulfur dust from the fruit.

New rule on Jap beetles

Treatment of planes flying from infested airfields to non-infested parts of the United States for control of Japanese beetles, is now required by a USDA regulation that went into effect July 26. Airline companies had been working under a voluntary-cooperative arrangement for years previously. The new regulation requires the use of pyrethrum-DDT aerosols. The instructions apply to airports from the coast inland to Pittsburgh, Morgantown, and Clarksburg.

Living up to the hilt

It is better to lose health like a spendthrift than to waste it like a miser.

—R. L. STEVENSON

Fossum wins Colman award

THE NORMAN JAY COLMAN award for service to the florists and nurserymen of the country was presented to M. Truman Fossum, agricultural economist, AMS, at the annual meeting of the American Association of Nurserymen at Minneapolis, Minn., July 21. The honor was given Mr. Fossum for his Trade in Horticultural Specialties, a statistical compendium issued by USDA in 1953 as Marketing Research Report 33. Copies may be obtained from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington, D. C. Of the 14 top entries the association judged this publication to be the one that made "the most outstanding contribution to the industry."

The Colman award is named for the first Secretary of Agriculture, who is often referred to as the "Father of Experiment Stations," for his part in passage of the Hatch Act, in 1889. Mr. Fossum is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and holds certificates from famous botanical gardens in Europe and America. He is a North Dakotan, has degrees from Cornell and Ohio State Universities, and taught at the University of Maryland and at Cornell.

Service scholarships open

TEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS are to be made to outstanding Federal Career employees—so announces MacHenry Schafer, Director of Personnel, in P-Memo 960. The winners in this highly competitive program will have their salary and expenses paid for a minimum of 6 months and not to exceed 12 months for study in their chosen field. Employees may apply through their agencies or directly to Rockefeller Public Service Awards Committee, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. Application blanks may be had from this Committee or from Mrs. Martha Lord, Office of Personnel, Room 347-W, Ext. 3185, Washington, D. C. A committee composed of C. O. Henderson, chairman, Personnel; G. E. Hilbert, ARS; Earl Loveridge, FS; H. L. Manwaring, CSS; J. E. O'Brien, REA; F. V. Waugh, AMS; and Gladwin Young, SCS, will review applications and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture for his endorsement. The reviewers will take into consideration both the records of performance of the employee and evidences of his future value to the Government.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Marketing Service: LELA Y. M. CLAYTON, social science analyst, Washington, D. C.; NELLIE J. FOWLER, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.; NATHAN M. KOFFSKY, supervisory analytical statistician, Washington, D. C.

Agricultural Research Service: LEMUEL J. JOHNSON, guard, Beltsville, Md.

Farmers Home Administration: JAMES S. COPE, farm management supervisor, Ontario, Oreg.

Forest Service: KENNETH H. BOLLER, engineer (general), Madison, Wis.; WILLIAM J. EMERSON, forester, Ely, Minn.; FLORENCE M. PETERS, pictorial research clerk, Milwaukee, Wis.; DANIEL L. RICKER, assistant forest ranger, Eagle River, Wis.; GUY V. WOOD, communications officer, San Francisco, Calif.

Rural Electrification Administration: EMAJEAN DONELSON, insurance examiner, Washington, D. C.; CLAYTON J. FRASEMER, file clerk (supervisor), Washington, D. C.; FRANK M. HELRING, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.; KATHERINE ANN MILLER, secretary (stenographer), Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: JOHN O. DEAN, management agronomist (land management), Riverside, Calif.; GABRIEL EPSTEIN, soil conservationist, Redlands, Calif.; JENNINGS W. GARLINGHOUSE, soil conservationist, Fallbrook, Calif.; WILLARD B. LARSEN, soil conservation aid, Lancaster, Calif.; LEONARD R. LEONI, soil conservationist, Los Banos, Calif.; EARL N. LOVE, JR., soil conservation aid, Ennis, Mont.; HAROLD W. MILLER, soil conservationist, Pleasanton, Calif.; DOUGLAS W. MOYERS, soil conservationist, Franklin, Tenn.; EMMIT E. ROUVRON, engineering aid (general), Corning, Calif.; DONELL D. SYLVESTER, soil conservationist (operations), Valentine, Nebr.; VERLON K. VRANA, soil conservation aid, Seward, Nebr.; AUBRY L. WALKER, soil conservation aid, Yazoo City, Miss.; ZOLA M. WOLD, clerk-stenographer, Riverside, Calif.; EDWARD S. WONG, soil scientist, Napa, Calif.

Cash Awards for Suggestions

(Authorized by Public Law 600—cases in excess of \$100, during fiscal year 1954)

Agricultural Marketing Service: CHESTER S. ADELL, Washington, D. C., \$150.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: PHYLIS J. STREET, Richmond, Va., \$125.

Bureau of Animal Industry: JOSEPHINE E. LAUTH, Washington, D. C., \$150.

Commodity Stabilization Service: LORRAINE W. COX, Chicago, Ill., \$150; EML SCHMITT, JR., Chicago, Ill., \$130; GEORGE A. THIEL, Chicago, Ill., \$170.

Production & Mktg. Administration: LAWRENCE J. ARENT, Minneapolis, Minn., \$150; LILLIAN R. BRAVERMAN, Chicago, Ill., \$115; HAZEL S. ETHERIDGE, Chicago, Ill., \$275.

Soil Conservation Service: EUGENE F. MAY, Beltsville, Md., \$150.

Awards for Efficiency

(Authorized by Public Law 429, during fiscal year 1954)

Commodity Stabilization Service: SCUDDER H. DARRAGH, Washington, D. C., \$120; JOHN J. MORIARTY, Washington, D. C., \$140; ELIZABETH H. OLSEN, Oakland, Calif., \$270.

Farmers Home Administration: PEDRO ORTIZ, San Juan, Puerto Rico, \$10.

Library: WILFORD W. FINNEY, Washington, D. C., \$70.

Production and Marketing Administration: ALICE M. CHRISTENSEN, Portland, Oreg., \$120.

Wheat quotas approved

FARMERS in the July 23 referendum on wheat approved marketing quotas by a vote of close to 3 to 1. The preliminary unofficial returns were 73.3 percent of the 267,104 votes counted. The results mean that the marketing quotas will be in effect during the marketing year beginning July 1, 1955, since the quotas proclaimed by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson June 21 are effective immediately on approval of two-thirds of those voting.

Dr. Louise Stanley dies

DR. LOUISE STANLEY, of worldwide fame as a nutrition and home economics leader and first chief of the former Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, died at her home in Washington, July 15. Under Dr. Stanley's leadership for 20 years the bureau achieved very high standing. For 7 years Dr. Stanley was special assistant to the Administrator of Agricultural Research Administration. She retired from the Department in 1950, but accepted a call to be consultant with the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (FAS), developing training programs for foreign students, as part of the Technical Assistance Program. In recognition of her service in this field, the American Home Economics Association founded the Louise Stanley Latin American Scholarship.

Dr. Stanley was born in Nashville, Tenn., took doctor's degrees at Yale and Missouri Universities, taught and conducted research for 16 years at Missouri, where she was chairman of the Home Economics Department, and where she received the first LL. D. degree granted a woman by the university. She became a member of leading honor and scientific societies. In Washington Dr. Stanley was extremely active in home economics circles and was sent to numerous international conferences, particularly in Latin America.

With all her work and responsibilities, Dr. Stanley was always the practical homemaker, friend, and counselor, and she possessed rare ability to coordinate investigations to solve problems for homemakers.

Check up on your driving?

A practical Safety Guide for drivers of motor vehicles has been issued by the personnel division of Agricultural Research Service. How to handle a car in any emergency is plainly and directly told, so that even the most seasoned driver is likely to enjoy checking up on his own driving habits.

Thoughts in Season

SCHOOL WITHOUT END! Already on the first cooling night of August, we think again about school, the school of the classroom and the source of homework we may be asked to share. Young members of the family have to be outfitted and gently encouraged into giving up the vagabondia of summer. Some older members, who teach, may have to snap back into thinking of their textbooks and outlines. Every year it is the same gathering scramble—something remembered, something forgotten—and a vague sense of relief that maybe the curious and acquisitive youngsters are going to get out of your hair.

There is a daily shower of articles criticizing schools. The schools have been taking it on the chin for years, but no doubt they will be with us for a long time. They certainly can stand improvement, and their high place in the mind of Americans makes it imperative that the utmost vision enter into decisions. With their eyes and ears bombarded with new methods of teaching old truths, it's a wonder that parents don't get as confused as do the educational writers. One fellow says to let the pupils be disciplined with love. Some of us have known teachers who just loved to administer discipline! "This hurts me more than it hurts you!" We might spend more effort in provoking thought; more of reason and less of impulse, perhaps.

A tough old scholar said that a library is a great help, if it is well organized. So with the mind. So with our stock of knowledge—of most value when turned over and thought about. School boards are sitting up nights, training their intellects on the shape of things to come. Must they shape a lot of people for jobs? For success, or public service, or just for "life?" For self-realization or self-aggrandizement? For soaring thought, or—survival?

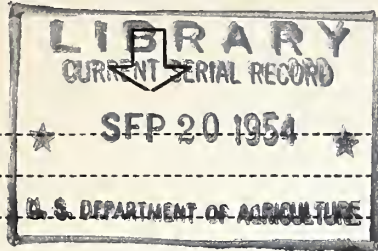
Critics must keep busy, or the poor fellows starve. Schools must reopen; and thought, we are persuaded, must be everlastingly exercised.

August 11, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 16

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 25, 1954

Great decade lies ahead

(Our new Assistant Secretary Butz answers a request of the USDA for a personal message to employees of the Department)

By Earl L. Butz

This is a marvelous time for imaginative scientists to work in one of the greatest of all professions—Agriculture. Never have the advances of science and technology in our industry been more rapid or far-reaching than in this generation. Conversely, seldom have the problems we face been more profound.

Yet, our principal problem in agriculture is really a happy one. How much better to wrestle with "too much" rather than "too little," as is the case in most of the world.

Some people maintain that because of a few current surplus situations in agriculture, we should slow down the application of science and technology to agriculture. Nothing can be further from the truth. We must intensify our efforts to expand consumption and develop new markets in this hungry world. Legislation adopted by the present Congress will assist materially in our efforts to do this.

Our abundant agricultural production reflects in large part the high degree of efficiency in agricultural production and marketing. Yet I am confident that in a few years we will look back upon 1954 and wonder how we could have been so inefficient just a few years earlier.

The scientific and technological advances we will experience in the next decade will be unparalleled in the history of American agriculture. The geographic frontier in American agriculture is gone. No longer can a young man "go

West" and stake out his claim. But the scientific frontier in America is barely scratched. And the scientific frontier has no effective limit. It is limited only by the mind and the imagination of man.

Organized and imaginative research, in both production and distribution, is the factor which will push our scientific frontier beyond limits we scarcely dare dream of today.

It is a great privilege the Lord has given you and me to live in this generation. It is an era of the most rapid scientific and technological change of all time. We have made more progress in production per worker in America in the last century than in all previous recorded history of man on this earth. Most of this change has occurred within our lifetime. As you read this, the change continues at an accelerated pace.

In this choice land of America, for people with imagination and ambition, the best decade of all lies ahead.



Earl L. Butz

Family meeting

SEVERAL MEMBERS who attended the convention of the American Agricultural College Editors Association at East Lansing, Mich., in July reported to the "family meeting" of the Office of Information staff July 29. The convention on the Michigan State Campus had a record attendance of some 300 editors, broadcasters, writers, and public relations officers. Led by Director Lyle Webster, the returned speakers discussed the principal phases of State and U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperation.

Many of the State college exhibits and programs were praised by Office of Information and agency information officers; and it was reported that the State people, including the numerous younger members of the education and information staffs at the convention, were found eager to discuss viewpoints with the Washington members. The meeting did much to bring closer understanding between the Federal and State groups.

Other features of the USDA Information family meeting, were the presentation of 10-, 20-, and 30-year service pins to a dozen or more employees, and the introduction of the five student trainees, in from State Colleges to receive a summer's training in information work in the Department. The trainees, all Midwesterners, are expected to study all divisions of Information, and to cover assignments of intensive work in their special fields. Their names, college connections, and present USDA assignments follow:

Harlan (Hal) Fruetel, a junior journalism major at the University of Minnesota, is working with Inquiries and Distribution.

Jerry Davis, a senior at Iowa State, student editor of the *Iowa State Daily*, is working in Press Service.

Bob Nemcik, a senior at Michigan State, has had some experience with Extension TV at East Lansing. His talents are now being used by our own Radio and Television Service.

Bob Talbott, a graduate of South Dakota State with a major in agricultural journalism and work experience in the Audio-visual Education Department at South Dakota, is now with Motion Picture Service.

Hyde Murray, a '52 graduate of Wisconsin U—also a '54 graduate of the U. S. Army—majored in agricultural journalism. He is working with the business office.

REA power \$1 million a day

Energy sales of rural electric systems financed by the Rural Electrification Administration are now running more than \$1 million daily. This is a tenfold growth in the last 12 years. The 4 million farm consumers are paying about one-third less per kilowatt-hour than they did in 1942. Average farm use of electricity on REA-financed lines increased from 50 kw.-hr. per month in 1941 to 203 kw.-hr. per month in 1953.

Field services review

THE DEPARTMENT is undertaking a field services review to determine whether, in the face of almost constant changes in program responsibilities, all groups are effectively and efficiently serving the farmers and members of the general public. To supply leadership in the review Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has named a Field Services Review Committee consisting of the following: J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary, Chairman; Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary; K. L. Scott, Director, Agricultural Credit Services; Charles Figg, Assistant to the Secretary.

The Committee will want to draw upon the experience of representative groups of field employees of the Department and it is authorized to call upon all Department agencies for such assistance as may be needed. The first step has been taken in the naming by Mr. Coke of the first working team from the several agencies and the Secretary's office to spend full time on outlining scope and methods of the review. The team consists of: Robert T. Beall, leader, and Phillip F. Aylesworth, Kenneth A. Butler, Arthur J. Holmaas, Joseph P. Loftus, and John Thurston. It will be located in Room 1-W Administration Building. Telephone extension is 4777.

We learn about milk

THE FIRST settlers in the New World had no dairy problems—they brought no cows with them. But they did have nutrition problems. Suitable food was scarce for all, and many of the children died from lack of milk. The colonies had to send back for cows. Agricultural Information Bulletin 125, *Milk and Its Products—Facts for Consumer Education*, brings the story of milk down to date. The nutrients that give dairy products their high value, the care of milk on the farm and in the home, marketing information, and suggestions for use of products in tasty meals are covered in text and charts in this booklet. It was prepared by Irene H. Wolgamot and Lillian J. Fincher, of the Home Economics Research Branch, ARS. Copies at Office of Information, USDA.

Miss Rebitz retires

Miss Elizabeth M. Rebitz of the Meat Inspection Branch, ARS, who entered Government service in Washington, D. C., in 1918, transferred to St. Paul, and then to Los Angeles 14 years ago, retired August 1. She will live in Monrovia, Calif.

Cotton breeder goes to Peru

Dr. G. N. Strohman, of the Agronomy Department, New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station, became director of the Institute of Genetics in Lima, Peru, June 1. He developed the 1517 variety of cotton.

Farmers Home gains

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION is gaining in activity at the grassroots, and in extending credit to farmers, R. B. McLeaish, the agency's Administrator, reports.

Lending activities increased 28 percent during 1954—\$292,000,000 loaned and insured in 1954, compared to \$228,000,000 in 1953.

About 243,000 farm families worked their farms during the year with credit they received from the agency in 1954 or in previous years. The comparable figure for 1953 was 220,000.

About two-thirds of the funds loaned helped small farmers to improve the operations of their farms and to buy and develop family-type farms.

About one-third of the funds loaned helped farmers caught in emergency to continue operations.

Administrative expenses were lowered during the year by \$4,000,000.

More authority in the making and servicing of loans is being placed in the hands of county supervisors.

Soil microbiology meet

THE FIRST American National Soil Microbiology Conference was held late in June at Purdue University. It was sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, and Purdue University. Dr. Lewis W. Erdman, in charge of research on legume inoculation at the Plant Industry Station, was general chairman of the organizing committee. He reported 200 scientists present and 24 technical and popular papers read.

Plant Industry Station men giving papers were: Dr. R. M. Salter, Chief, Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch; Dr. Erdman; Dr. C. H. Wadleigh, head of Soil and Plant Relationship Section; Dr. Francis E. Clark, in charge of Soil Microbiology; and Dr. F. E. Allison, in charge of nitrogen and organic matter investigations.

Of the various scientists needing the facts coming from research in soil microbiology are: soil physicists, soil chemists, drainage and irrigation engineers, fertilizer specialists, plant pathologists, and physiologists. Dr. Erdman said it also works the other way around: The biologically teeming soil is evidently benefited by teamwork. And the science "covers a lot of ground."

Brief and choice

Handling plant requests

F. P. Cullinan, Chief, Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS, Beltsville, Md., at present has an agreement with the Foreign Operations Administration to service requests for experimental plant materials which originate from FOA personnel abroad. If any State experiment station wishes to take advantage of this service, it may direct requests to C. O. Erlanson, Head of the Section of Plant Introduction, through whom procurement, certificates of sanitation, and transportation can be arranged. This may help to avoid duplication in handling requests from abroad.

Business barrier

Foreign Agriculture Service employees are bound by certain restrictions in their work overseas. For instance, an officer or employee of the foreign service programs shall not, while in office, transact or be personally interested in any business, or engage for profit in any profession in the country to which he is assigned abroad, either in his own name or through the agency of another person.

Cy Evans retires at Dallas

C. M. (Cy) Evans, Milk Marketing Administrator at Dallas, Tex., has retired after 47 years of agricultural service; 31 years of which were with USDA. He taught animal husbandry at Texas A. & M. in 1907, and later at Iowa State College. In 1910 he organized the Extension Service of A. & M., then became editor of the *Southern Farm and Dairy Magazine*, managed the Northern Texas Bureau Dairymen's Cooperative, and took the job as farm editor of the *Dallas Times Herald*. He also pioneered in farm radio. He participated in numerous farming and livestock developments, and as regional director of the Resettlement Administration he is reported to have made the first tenant purchase loan in the United States. For a time he was assistant to the Administrator in Washington, D. C. He and Mrs. Evans will live on their 300-acre farm, where they have a 100-head herd of purebred dairy cattle.

Youth in all but age

The bouquet of the month is tossed to 84-year-old John Ellzey of Progress, Miss., for his active service, his seniority, and his record of 37 years with the Fifth Farm Credit District, FCA. The *Link*, published monthly by the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, indicates that Mr. Ellzey is perhaps the oldest active director in the South. He also runs a 37-acre farm, without help, raises 9 to 12 thousand broilers a year; he has voted regularly since becoming 21, and has been a justice of the peace for 44 years. He is a member of the board of directors of the Pike national farm loan association, "active as men 20 years his junior."

"Self-help" broiler program

The Broiler Industry Advisory Council met in Washington July 26-27 to develop a "self-help" program to meet growers' problems of production and marketing. Opposition was expressed to obtaining price supports for broilers, but a committee was authorized to advise with the U. S. Department of Agriculture regularly on questions before the industry. The Department and the food-distribution industry were commended for their aid in meeting merchandising programs. Better financing, management, and merchandising, are in the plans for the coming seasons.

37 get service buttons

LENGTH OF Service Awards for 37 employees of the Office of the Secretary were presented in a special ceremony, July 13. Those honored had completed 10, 20, or 30 years of work with the Department. Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts presided. The awards were presented personally by the staff office heads: Joseph C. Wheeler, Office of Budget and Finance; MacHenry Schafer, Personnel; Glen J. Gifford, Office of Hearing Examiners; and F. R. Mangham, Plant and Operations.

Ten-year awards were made as follows: *Office of the Secretary*, CLAYTON C. INMAN; *Office of Personnel*, MARGARET L. JOHNSTON, A. JAMES MARTIN, BLANCHE MICHURA; *Office of Hearing Examiners*, G. OSMOND HYDE; *Office of Budget and Finance*, SHIRLEY I. BROGAN, CURTIS K. BURTON, JOHN C. MOTEN; *Office of Plant and Operations*, MARTHA L. BUTLER, WILLIAM N. GARDEN, LEROY JACKSON, MELVIN F. LOCKS, PAUL F. LOEHLER, BERNARD QUICK, DORTHY S. YOUNG.

Twenty-year awards: *Office of the Secretary*, FLORA J. MATCHETT; *Office of Budget and Finance*, MAE F. BENNETT, AMELIA A. CORNNELL, MARY E. KENDALL, CARL R. SAPP, DOROTHEA L. ZEIS; *Office of Personnel*, N. ROBERT BEAR, WILLIAM A. CARSKADEN, AUGUST J. MCCLARY, BERNARD A. NEARY, H. REELF PEECKSEN, FRANCIS S. REESE, FLORENCE B. STEIBEL; *Office of Hearing Examiners*, JOHN J. CURRY, GLEN J. GIFFORD; *Office of Plant and Operations*, JAMES L. DONALDSON, WILLIAM T. LUMAN, CEZAR L. MAMARIL, MARGARET T. SCHNEIDER, PAUL R. YEAGER.

Thirty-year awards: *Office of Budget and Finance*, FLORENCE A. CAMPBELL; *Office of Plant and Operations*, SAMUEL L. GARDINER, NORMAN W. HARBIN, SAMUEL G. QUINN.

Bovine heat problem

COWS TOO have heat problems. They can run to the shade and prevent some absorption of sun's rays by dark hair, but they can't get away from their weight, unless they have plenty of area of skin to cover their pounds and bulk. They are even less tolerant to heat than suffering man, because of their inability to perspire freely and so rid themselves of heat.

USDA engineers and dairymen of the Missouri Experiment Station found at Columbia that the cows suffering most are those that have the least skin area in relation to their body weight. Thus Holsteins, a heavy breed, with less skin area per pound of weight than Jerseys or Brahmans, have greater difficulty ridding themselves of the sun's radiated heat. Holsteins are less tolerant to heat radiation than Jerseys; Jerseys less tolerant than the Indian Brahmans, a heavy breed. The Brahman's secret of heat tolerance is its built-in "radiator"—its big ears, dewlaps, and navel flap, which provide the breed with large skin areas

through which heat can be dissipated without greatly increasing body heat. Both Holsteins and Jerseys were affected under laboratory conditions that approached the sun's radiation on an average Midwestern summer day. When temperature was increased to 70°, production dropped 24 and 14 percent, respectively, and at 80°, 40 and 30 percent. Brahmans showed no discomfort under the hottest test combination of air temperature and heat radiation and kept eating normally.

Readers' reminders

Choice of dairy barns

Not every farm is so arranged or geographically located as to make the loose-housing system of handling dairy cows practical. That system, widely recommended, is described in USDA Agricultural Information Bulletin 98. A new bulletin, AIB 123, Stall Barns for Dairy Cattle, is proving useful in the construction of dairy barns, and in changing stalls in older barns. Because cows are larger, feeding methods are being improved, and room must be made for labor-saving equipment, much interest is shown in the new stall barn bulletin. State and Federal stations have done a lot of experimenting with dairy buildings and equipment, and the new bulletin is well illustrated to show recent findings and to guide the farmer in constructions of stall barns. Costs are discussed and directions given for obtaining blueprints of plans suitable for particular localities. Both bulletins are available from the USDA Office of Information.

Nine books of rural fiction

Extension Service has issued a list of nine leading books of rural fiction published in 1953. The list, together with brief reviews, was prepared by Caroline B. Sherman, formerly editor and reviewer for BAE

New Graduate School book

A new book on public administration, "Legislative-Executive Relationships in the Government of the United States," has been issued by the Graduate School, USDA. It was compiled and prefaced by Dr. O. B. Conway of the staff, and is made up of the lectures given in the spring of 1953 in the Jump-McKillop Memorial Series on Public Administration. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson is one of the authors. Graduate School bookstore, price \$1.50.

Cotton for wire insulation

Forty-five million pounds of cotton are used in a year for insulation of electric wire and cable. Cotton is exceeded only by plastics, rubber, and paper, a recent USDA research survey shows. A preliminary report *Fibers and Other Materials Used in Insulating Electric Wire and Cable* may be had from Agricultural Marketing Service.

Golden Nematode

The Golden nematode of potatoes and tomatoes infests only a small area on Long Island, but it spreads easily via farm machinery, burlap bags, and trouser cuffs, and is sufficiently dangerous to two major vegetable crops to warrant issuance of a USDA bulletin. This is Leaflet 361, *The Golden Nematode of Potatoes and Tomatoes*. It was prepared by J. F. Spears, of the nematode control project, ARS, and is illustrated in colors. Office of Information USDA, has a limited supply.

World's Poultry Congress

TWENTY UNITED STATES DELEGATES attended the 10th World's Poultry Congress, held at Edinburgh, Scotland, August 13-21. From Washington went Dr. T. C. Byerly, Chief of the Animal and Poultry Research Branch ARS, Beltsville; E. Smith Kimball, agricultural statistician, Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS; Dr. James M. Gwin, State Extension Director, University of Maryland; and Jos. W. Kinghorne, vice president of the World's Poultry Science Association. Dr. Byerly was chairman of the United States delegation, and Dr. O. B. Kent of the Quaker Oats Co., Chicago, Ill., vice chairman.

W. D. Termohlen, honorary past president of the World's Poultry Science Association, held the only American honorary membership in the 10th Congress. He was originally named a member of the United States delegation, but was unable to attend. Since 1939, when the 7th Congress was held at Cleveland, Ohio, the world meetings have been held outside the United States, the 9th Congress being held at Paris, France. This year's sessions were mainly technical and scientific, with the aim of advancing the poultry industry along the most modern lines.

Protects priority rights

The USDA has revised its regulations on reemployment priority rights of separated employees to conform with the regulation of the Civil Service Commission which recognizes certain rights of employees separated by reduction in force. Those employees in groups I and II who have been separated will have their names entered on reemployment priority lists and will be given consideration for competitive service positions for which they are qualified in the commuting area from which they were separated. The civil service rule says that:

As long as such employees are carried on the reemployment priority lists and are available, no competitive service positions in the commuting area may be filled by appointment of a person who is not a 10-point preference eligible, or by reemployment of a former employee not on the reemployment priority lists who does not have veteran preference.

Producer consumption of eggs

Use of fresh eggs at the family table is the largest outlet for U. S. production. Because a large part of this demand is from farm families who produce eggs, and from keepers of backyard flocks, about 20 percent of the eggs produced never enter commercial trade.

Echoes of field day

Dr. James G. Horsfall, Director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, was scheduled to deliver the main address on the annual station field day, August 18. A national leader on research in plant diseases, he chose for his topic "The Rots and the Rusts, the Blasts and the Blights That Beset Us."

"Here stand my books"

NO FOREIGN librarian traveling in the United States would think of going home without visiting the USDA Library. National librarians of Switzerland, France, Israel, India, Australia, and many other countries, the Keeper of the Printed Books of the British Museum, exchange librarians of all ranks, and library school students from other countries have visited our Library and found it worth their while.

It is not just the size of the Department's Library—approximately 1,000,000 volumes, and easily the largest agricultural library in the world—that attracts the learned and studious; it is the systematic service and the ability to put requested material promptly before the user. Much of this reputation for efficiency and serviceability is due to Director Ralph R. Shaw, who is leaving the Library to teach in Rutgers University. Fourteen years ago, Dr. Shaw succeeded another distinguished librarian, Miss Claribel R. Barnett. Under his administration many changes and innovations have been made to keep the Library abreast of its increasing responsibilities. The bureau libraries and the Department Library have been consolidated. The *Bibliography of Agriculture*, an index to the world literature in agriculture and the related sciences, which runs to more than 90,000 items per year, has been established and is now in its 18th volume.

Cooperative agreements have been made with five Land-Grant Colleges under which library service is given by them to USDA field personnel at a substantial saving to the taxpayer. Photoduplication has been expanded, and now furnishes quick free service to USDA offices. The photoclerk, a camera adapted to use in clerical routines, which saves hundreds of man-hours of typing time, and the rapid selector, an electronic device of great potential value in bibliographical work, have been developed by Dr. Shaw, the latter device in cooperation with other scientists.

Dr. Shaw is leaving the USDA August 23 to become Professor of Bibliography in the new Graduate School of Library Service at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., and to engage in consulting work and research. His doctorate is from the University of Chicago. He holds degrees also from Western Reserve University and Columbia University.

"Hallmark" of good writing

Charlie Rogers and Forest Hall have discovered that the "Halls have it" in the field of editorial work on USDA agency publications. We would have to make a count of the Nelsons, for instance, to challenge the claim of numerical primacy. Anyway, Charlie and Forest name four editor Halls: Dave Hall, ARS; Bob Hall, Forest Service; Ellen Hall, Extension Service; and Forest Hall, AMS. All we know is that the manuscripts okayed by any of the four do bear the "hallmark of good writing."

Shoot for the individual

"The successful motion picture communicates its message to the *individual*, who responds to it, is moved by it, and who carries its image in his mind * * * The significance of the motion picture is not found principally in the measure of "mass" audience reaction, but whether or not it is carried home in the mind and heart of the individual who has seen it." These lines are from Andrew W. Smith, Jr., motion picture service chief, writing for the *U. S. Information Agency News*.

Death comes to fieldman

William J. Spicer, Plant Pest Control Branch, ARS, and the Federal-State grasshopper control, supervisor of a large section of northern New Mexico, lost his life in a car accident on his way to the airstrip in June. The grasshopper-control men start their work with first daylight, and it is believed that Mr. Spicer missed a turn in the darkness.

Party for Arthur

Nearly 100 of his fellow editors and friends attended the retirement party for Charles M. Arthur July 30. It was held in the air-conditioned Motion Picture laboratory, which detracted no whit from the warmth of the handshakes. Brief speeches were made by R. Lyle Webster, Director, Inf.; MacHenry Schafer, Director, Pers.; Harry P. Mileham, Chief of Publications, and Charlie Glass, Printing Section. Mr. Arthur held the rank of Scientific Editor, and had completed nearly 30 years of service. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur live in Somerset, Washington, D. C.

Doing station bulletins

DURING THE Agricultural Economics Writing Short Course held at Corvallis, Oreg., last winter, Amy Cowing, readability expert of the Federal Extension Service, was repeatedly asked by economists: "What is the purpose of experiment station bulletins?" On her return to Washington Mrs. Cowing put the question before R. W. Trullinger, Assistant ARS Administrator for the Office of Experiment Stations. Dr. Trullinger replied:

The purpose of an experiment station bulletin is to tell the results of agricultural research so that this information may be put to practical and gainful use. There are two kinds of station bulletins. Popular bulletins provide general or specific information for farmers, teachers, extension workers, and the general public. Research or scientific bulletins are technical in nature and make research findings available to scientists engaged in similar or related research. They also provide a permanent fund of scientific knowledge in the many different agricultural subject matter areas.

Chestnuts are no dodos

IT MAY not be the time of year to roast chestnuts, but it is a good time to observe here and there the last lone dead chestnut tree of a once thrifty stand. It is only 50 years ago that the blight native to the Orient struck its first tree in New York Zoological Park. Its quick spread throughout the East brought about a plant disaster with few parallels, unless we mention the wiping out of all the vineyards of France by the American grape rootlouse (phylloxera). The French eventually saved their industry by importing the American grape rootstocks highly resistant to the louse. So now American scientists are bringing in from the Orient trees that are largely immune, or resistant to the Asian blight. These trees, many of which are planted about Washington, D. C., may not restore the proud chestnut forests of the Appalachians, but they promise at least to produce eventually some good timber and satisfactory quantities of edible nuts.

Foresters and horticulturists have not quite given up our native species, however; they are continually receiving word that sprouts here and there appear to be developing a much higher resistance than our chestnut trees formerly had. A few years ago sprouts succumbed at about 2 inches in diameter; now some live to be 5 inches. Meantime, tree-breeding goes on, some of the outstanding work being that of crossing Chinese and American chestnuts, and backcrossing to produce durable trees and durable wood, upright growth, and good crops of nuts. USDA and Connecticut stations have carried on constant experiments for more than 25 years. A lot of good management goes into the growing of chestnuts. To answer endless questioning, the Department has issued Farmers' Bulletin 2068, Chestnut Blight and Resistant Chestnuts. Free copies are available from the Office of Information, USDA.

Decidedly, chestnuts are not dead as the dodos.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 1954

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as follows:

Agricultural Research Service: JOSEPH L. ATTCHESON, animal husbandman, Beltsville, Md.; REBA R. BAUM, physical science aid, Wyndmoor, Pa.; CLARENCE M. BEATTY, administrative officer, Beltsville, Md.; METER BRODNER, veterinary meat inspector, New York, N. Y.; NORRIS R. CRAWFORD, physical science aid, Yuma, Ariz.; CHARLES L. DAVIS, veterinarian, Denver, Colo.; MARY ANN DENNIS, payroll clerk, Beltsville, Md.; ROWENA O. DEPEW, administrative assistant, Beltsville, Md.; CHARLES J. DOLKOS, industrial specialist, Washington, D. C.; MILDRED A. DOSS, zoologist, Beltsville, Md.; WALTER J. HALL, veterinarian, Beltsville, Md.; TROY E. HAMMONS, meat inspector, New Orleans, La.; MARY JANE HAYDEN, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.; STERLING BROWN HENDRICKS, chemist, Beltsville, Md.

AUDREY A. HIGDON, secretary, Washington, D. C.; FRED S. HOPSON, supervising quarantine enforcement inspector, San Antonio, Tex.; SMITH D. HURD, Clerk, Wyndmoor, Pa.; DAN ISGRIG, soil scientist, Georgetown, Ky.; ROMAN KULWICH, animal husbandman (nutrition), Beltsville, Md.; IVAN L. LINDAHL, biochemist, Beltsville, Md.; CHESTER A. MANTHEI, veterinarian, Beltsville, Md.; CHARLES M. MERKEL, agricultural engineer, Stoneville, Miss.; THOMAS A. MOIR, veterinary meat inspector, Madison, Wis.; CHARLE E. MOOTZ, veterinary meat inspector, Philadelphia, Pa.; ROSCOE W. MORGAN, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.; LAWRENCE O. MOTT, veterinarian, Beltsville, Md.; EDWARD A. MURPHY, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; RICHARD F. MURPHY, JR., meat inspector supervisor, Boston, Mass.; CLARENCE H. PALS, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; ELAINE P. PENDERGAST, secretary, Washington, D. C.; CHARLES J. PRCHAL, veterinary meat inspector, Phoenix, Ariz.; LORENZO A. RICHARDS, soil scientist (physicist), Riverside, Calif.; CHARLES W. ROGERS, agricultural aid, Beltsville, Md.; JOHN R. SCOTT, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; OTTO W. SEHER, veterinary meat inspector, Chicago, Ill.;

ROBERT K. SOMERS, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; RAYMOND O. STANBRIDGE, agricultural aid, Brawley, Calif.; JOSEPH S. STEIN, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; DWIGHT F. STEPHENS, animal husbandman, Fort Reno, Okla.; EDWARD NORTON TIERNEY, veterinarian, Washington, D. C.; MARGARET POE VOGTS, clerk-stenographer, Beltsville, Md.; FREDERICK L. WILDE, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: RICHARD H. MORRIS, soil conservationist, Williamstown, Ky.

Fair Employment Officer

Personnel Director MacHenry Schafer has been named Fair Employment Officer for the Department. The Department policy for fair employment and procedures for handling complaints or appeals of alleged discrimination are covered in Chapter 46, Title 8, of the Administrative Regulations.

Three on a phone

Were you ever startled in the midst of a routine telephone call to have a third voice break in with a correction? Or maybe it was your own assistant adding something. Three on a phone is a costly practice. Secretary's Memorandum No. 1362 says the practice should not be followed except (1) when the other party to the call is informed by the Department representative that a third party is on the line, and (2) the participation of such third party will facilitate the work in hand. All calls to, from, or within the Department shall be handled accordingly.

Group Life Insurance

WHEN YOU receive this issue of *USDA* you probably will also have received the Civil Service announcement of the new Group Life Insurance for Federal civilian employees. For Department of Agriculture employees the effective date was August 29. Most employees were automatically insured at that time.

Practically all citizens regularly employed by the Government are insured at low cost, in the approximate amount of their annual salary, without a medical examination. The employee pays 25 cents per \$1,000 of insurance each bi-weekly pay period; the Government pays half this amount. Insurance after retirement or after age of 65 is at no cost. The amount of insurance is progressively reduced after the age of 65 by 2 percent a month, until a 75-percent reduction is reached. The remaining 25 percent remains in effect. Information in detail and forms you may wish to fill out can be had at your personnel office.

Saving soft corn

USDA HAS revised the soft corn Farmers' Bulletin 1976, "Handling and Storing Soft Corn on the Farm." The processes of testing for moisture and methods of drying, and other measures to save late crops are described in some detail. Points to remember are summarized this way:

Soft corn is a valuable feed—don't let it spoil. Mechanical drying to safe moisture content for storage, using heated or unheated air, is the most positive method of saving soft corn.

Fall and winter feeding and ensiling are good ways to save soft corn.

If the corn is to be dried by natural ventilation during crib storage:

Don't be in a hurry about harvesting; wait until cold weather.

Husk clean.

Before harvesting the corn, test its moisture content.

Provide the extra crib ventilation needed according to moisture content of the corn.

Manual on lab safety

A practical Manual on Safety for workers in chemical laboratories, pilot plants, chemical storerooms, and mechanical shops has been issued as *USDA Agricultural Handbook 37*. Specific precautions are given for handling many of the more dangerous chemicals in common use. Sections are devoted also to fumigants and flammable materials, gas containers, glass apparatus, shop equipment, pilot-plant techniques, "housekeeping," and protective equipment for personnel. The booklet was prepared by the safety committees of the Utilization Research Branches of Agricultural Research Service. No free copies. Write Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price 25 cents.

Realizing on farm woods

A FARMER doing his own work in the woods in the Southern Appalachians can realize as much as \$10 an acre a year for his woods products. This figure is based on 8 years of cuttings in four experimental areas under supervision of the Southern Appalachians Research Center of the Forest Service near Asheville, N. C. These lands were set aside as parts of the Bent Creek Experimental Forest in 1945 for a production study on areas broadly comparable to those on thousands of farms in the Southern Appalachian area, of which about 40 percent is in woodland. Robert A. Campbell in his Station Paper No. 41 says:

This report based on 8 years of cutting shows that a farmer can profitably operate "wild" woodlands typical of the Southern Appalachians, meanwhile building up the quality and/or volume of his stand. If his timber is of average size and stocking, he should be able to obtain a return in excess of \$3 per acre per year from the sale of stumpage alone. However, if he is one of those many farmers who can do the woods work, he should be able to increase his stumpage income to about \$10 per acre per year. Furthermore, if he has a truck and can haul to market, he can increase his return another 50 percent, to approximately \$15 per acre per year. This means that he sells his labor as he does in marketing wheat or tobacco. Net labor returns for the harvesting operation averaged about \$1 per hour for the 8-year period.

Woodland owners can obtain much help by reading and applying the information given in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1989, entitled "Managing the Small Forest." Inquiries and Distribution Section has copies.

What melons are made of

THERE ARE market men and gardeners, to the manner born, who can look at a watermelon, and judge closely its ripeness, texture, and taste. It may not be possible to transmit this gift entire to the housewife who chooses for the American table, but the U. S. Department of Agriculture is doing the next best thing—providing us with melons of uniformly high quality—so that the shopper gets a better break in her pick of melons. The newest variety, called the Charleston Gray, is adapted for growing in the Southeast, and is a good shipper, of superior shape, weighing usually 28 to 35 pounds, well suited for retail sale whole or in halves or quarters. The eating quality is declared to be very fine.

The Charleston Gray (plant number "51-57") yields well and has a high degree of resistance to the worst crop diseases. The seeds will be available from 30 seed dealers having some 25,000 pounds for sale for planting in 1955.

This new melon illustrates the work of the plant breeders who draw upon improvement factors from all over the world. Anthracnose resistance came from an African melon used in a cross at Iowa State Experiment Station; wilt resistance from an Australian variety, Hawkesbury, crossed at the Florida Station with Leesburg; and the Garrison variety, entered into the breeding work at the Charleston, S. C., Southeastern Vegetable Breeding Laboratory of USDA, where the final cross was made in 1946, followed by 5 generations of selection.

The new melon was christened with elaborate ceremony at Clemson College, at the South Carolina Farm and Home Convention, August 19. The event was part of Frank Teuton's (ARS) program "Better Things for More People." South Carolina's Miriam Stevenson, "Miss Universe," of Winnsboro, aided by Dean Farrar of the college, cut the melon and passed the samples.

New aides in Extension

TO TAKE PART in planning, developing, and coordinating the work of the agricultural, home economics, agricultural economics, information, and 4-H Club and young men and young women's divisions of the Federal Extension Service will be the assignment for Otto C. Croy when he joins the service, September 15, on the staff of Administrator C. M. Ferguson. An Ohio State College graduate, Mr. Croy has been well trained as assistant director of extension work

in charge of programs in Ohio. Dr. John R. Paulling, of the University of Missouri, a graduate of Purdue, formerly of FAO, joins the Division of Agricultural Programs, as specialist in agronomy. Dr. Starley M. Hunter, also from Missouri, with degrees from Indiana University and Columbia University, joins the Division of Home Economics Programs September 15.

BA and Federal insurance

EFFECT of the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act of 1954 on operations of the USDA Beneficial Association is under study by directors of the Association. Some 16,000 employees of the Department are members of the Association and have an interest in the matter.

Section 10 of the Insurance Act provides authority under which the Beneficial Association (and other similar organizations in the Government) may wind up its affairs, if it so desires, and have certain of its obligations and assets taken over by the insurance fund. The Civil Service Commission is authorized to arrange for the insurance fund to assume any existing life insurance agreements of the Association with members who are retired or otherwise separated from the Federal Service. Such insured members would thereafter make payments at the same rates to the fund. If such a person should subsequently be employed in the Federal Service and not give notice of his desire not to be insured under the Act, he would automatically be insured under the Act and his Beneficial Association Insurance would terminate as of that date.

Employees who are not retired or separated would have their insurance agreements with the Beneficial Association terminated within 1 year after date of enactment of the Insurance Act (August 17, 1954), if the Association should arrange with the CSC to go out of business.

As long as the Association continues in business, employees are free to participate in the Federal program and at the same time continue existing insurance and/or obtain new insurance through the Association.

Legal and actuarial counsel are being retained by the various beneficial associations in the Government to make studies to determine the advisability of continuing operations or liquidating. As the Act is so recent, final interpretations of its various provisions have not as yet been made.

Members of the Beneficial Association with questions or views to express should make them known to the officers or directors of the Association.

United Nations Day October 24

Observance of United Nations Day, Sunday, October 24, is urged by President Eisenhower, in a proclamation calling for community programs to demonstrate faith in the organization and create better understanding of its aims, achievements, and problems. The Office of Personnel calls attention of all employees to the President's proclamation.

Brief and choice

Koutsy Chicago CEA chief

James F. Koutsy promoted to be CEA Supervisor in charge of the Chicago office, took over his new duties in August. He succeeded Arthur Mayo who retired after 25 years service. Roger E. Harper, long in charge of the ticker room of CEA in Washington, simultaneously transferred to Chicago to join the Trading and Analysis Section.

First phone loan in Alaska

REA announced at the end of July that the first REA telephone loan had been approved for Alaska. The \$567,000 loan was approved for the Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc., of the town of Palmer, and will be used to improve and extend rural telephone service in Matanuska Valley. All existing lines will be rebuilt, 165 miles of new line constructed, and 516 new subscribers will be served in and around the rural centers of Palmer, Wasilla, and Chugiak.

Christie to Philippines

Harold Christie, formerly assistant head of information work in the Farmers Home Administration, has been appointed information officer for the United States agricultural technical assistance program in the Philippines. For the past two years he has been in Ecuador helping the Ministry of Agriculture there build up the informational phases of its agricultural program. He is leaving soon for Manila on a FOA assignment with Jim Emmerson, also formerly of USDA.

Backs Co-op retirement credit

OPEDA (Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture) has not lost hope for legislation that would make it possible for employees who formerly worked in Federal-State cooperative programs to make back payments and receive retirement credit for time spent on such programs. The bill to amend the Civil Service Retirement Act was approved by the House of Representatives, but had not come to a vote in the Senate when the Senate adjourned August 20.

Area electric meetings

Rural Electrification Administration announces five regional meetings on behalf of the Inter-Industry Farm Electric Utilization Council, as follows: September 21, St. Paul, Minn.; September 28, Denver, Colo.; October 12, Columbus, Ohio; October 15, Fort Worth, Tex.; and October 20, Nashville, Tenn. The overall programs are arranged to establish the facts on the rural market for electrical appliances and equipment, and to present reasons for the effectiveness of sales programs at State levels. Arrangements for attendance can be made with Fred H. Strong, Deputy Administrator, REA, Washington 25, D. C.

FHA livestock loans

The Farmers Home Administration had loaned about \$38,000,000 to 4,000 livestock producers in the United States by July 30, 1954, 1 year after Congress appropriated funds for emergency credit to producers of cattle, sheep, and goats.

A year ago, because of drought conditions, producers had to buy feed when their stock should have had been on pasture. Many cattlemen had exhausted their normal source of credit. The special livestock loans helped them buy feed, replacements, and pay other expenses of maintaining essential foundation herds.

USDA: September 8, 1954

Campaign v. forest fires

PRODUCTION OF 1955 posters, leaflets, stamps, blotters, and bookmarks featuring Smokey Bear, saying "Remember, only you can prevent forest fires," will start late this month after the Forest Service receives orders for material from its field offices, State foresters, and Department of Interior conservation agencies. Such is the forest fire prevention campaign conducted by State and Federal forest services and the Advertising Council.

The 1955 campaign also includes seven 1-minute animated Smokey trailers for use in movie theaters or on TV and a 13-week radio series featuring Washington's Billy Johnson and Hollywood entertainers, the Sons of the Pioneers.

The Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention executive committee is made up of State Foresters Fred Claridge of North Carolina, Everett Lee of Colorado, and Harrod Newland of Kentucky and Forest Service representatives James Diehl, Chief, Division of State and Private Forest Protection; Byron Beattie, Assistant Chief, Division of Fire Control; and Dana Parkinson, Chief, Division of Information and Education, chairman.

Win friends with wheat

A NOVEL method of disposing of surplus wheat, at the same time promoting goodwill among the rice-eating peoples of the earth, is set forth in Senate Document No. 154. It is a study of processing and distribution of "parboiled" wheat made by Dr. Francis Joseph Weiss of Washington, formerly of USDA. Poverty and starvation of the rice-eating majority of mankind prepares a fertile field for communism. Dr. Weiss would counter the subversives by supplying the populations with the parboiled product, found in his investigations to be tasty, highly nutritious, and of good keeping quality. It would supplement, not displace the native-grown rice, and would give the American grower a satisfactory outlet for his crops. Not least in importance, distribution of parboiled wheat would carry a strong incentive for friendlier feelings toward America.

Butter Rally, and pancakes

The third annual Butter Rally, sponsored by the American Dairy Association, will be held in Chicago, September 17. Representatives of the dairy industry, grocery, and allied fields are invited. The Rally will feature an early breakfast of buttermilk pancakes and a variety of butter spreads. Leading operators will present proven successful ways to increase butter sales.

USDA Adorns Patio for Legion

Activities and programs of the Department were presented pictorially in the Patio of the Administration Building, during the national American Legion Convention held in Washington recently. The display prepared by the Exhibits Service, Office of Information, included copies of fine photographs contained in the book of Department activities and achievements presented by Secretary of Agriculture Benson to President Eisenhower in August.

Surplus disposal committee

Earl L. Butz, Assistant Secretary, has been designated an ex officio member of the Working Committee to provide for disposal abroad of surplus agricultural commodities, under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. The committee is composed of William G. Lodwick, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service (chairman); O. V. Wells, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; and L. N. Hoopes, Executive Assistant to the Secretary. It will report to Secretary Ezra Taft Benson through Assistant Secretary Butz.

"When sprayday is payday"

The Department now has a guide for farmers and spray-plane pilots. It is Farmers' Bulletin 2062, How to Spray the Aircraft Way, prepared by the University of Oklahoma Research Institute in cooperation with the Department's Aircraft and Special Equipment Center, Oklahoma City. "Sprayday is payday for farmers" has become significant for the growers of cotton, corn, vegetable, and tobacco, who lose a billion dollars a year from insect ravages.

Special equipment, piloting instruction, teamwork and planning to get the particular and ever-changing job done are discussed, and safety instructions given to fit the case. There are also descriptions of equipment and materials and pointers on regulations and State laws. Copies may be had from Inquiries and Distribution Section.

Fairchild, plant explorer

DR. DAVID GRANDISON FAIRCHILD, famous plant explorer of the USDA for half a century, author of "The World Was My Garden" and member of leading scientific societies, died at the age of 85 at his home in Coconut Grove, Fla., August 6. He is survived by his widow and two daughters. Mrs. Fairchild was formerly Marian H. Bell, daughter of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone.

Dr. Fairchild joined the Department in 1898. For many years he was Director of the Office of Plant Introduction. He retired in 1928, but through the years lent cooperation to the Department in introduction of new crop plants. Under his direction more than 75,000 species of field, orchard, and ornamental plants were introduced, and it has been said that his introductions increased agricultural production more than 100 million dollars a year. New varieties of wheat, rye, and soybeans, and the kudzu vine were some of the introductions. With cooperation of Dr. Walter T. Swingle, he introduced commercial date growing in the Southwest.

Foot on the ground

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Earl L. Butz, whose forward-looking message was printed in the USDA for August 25, was sworn in by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson August 2 to head the Marketing and Foreign Agriculture Branch of the Department. He succeeds former Assistant Secretary John H. Davis. This Department group includes The Agricultural Marketing Service, Commodity Exchange Administration, and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Born on a good-size livestock farm in a progressive community in Noble County, Indiana, Dr. Butz literally grew up with agriculture. He took two degrees at Purdue University, in 1932 and 1937, advancing steadily to become head of the University's Department of Agricultural Economics in 1946. He was research economist for the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, Ky., for a time, and he did research on farm credit at Brookings Institution in Washington, D. C., in 1944. Dr. Butz was on the staff of the National Bureau of Economic Research the following year. He was a delegate to the International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Great Britain in 1947, and holds memberships in numerous scientific and agricultural organizations. He is the author of many bulletins and of the book "Production Credit System for Farmers." Through the years he has kept one foot on the land.

As a speaker the new Assistant Secretary is said to be a man who at times must hold his humor in check, yet is deeply in earnest. He takes much satisfaction in coming to Washington. He first saw the capital in 1930, as a 4-H Club camper at the fourth national 4-H Club Camp, which was held on the Mall close to the Department buildings. There he met another club camper from North Carolina, who became Mrs. Butz in 1937.

Mr. Davis resigned to direct the Moffett Program at the Harvard School of Business Administration. About 250 of his friends gave a dinner in his honor at the National Press Club July 29. Dr. B. T. Shaw, Administrator of Agricultural Research Service, was toastmaster. On behalf of Mr. Davis' friends, Fred J. Rossiter, Assistant Administrator of Foreign Agricultural Service, presented him the world—a large late-model terrestrial globe.

Smiles more potent

A reader reminds us "that strength" may be the longest 1-syllable word in the language (USDA, Apr. 21), but that he prefers "smiles"—a "mile" between the 2 s's. We have to admit that smiles can be more potent than wrath. Thanks, Rgr.

Thoughts in season

SUMMER DOZES out of vacation dreams, and fall returns with enjoyment of the plenty, motion, and variety that reach a climax in the agricultural fair. For a spell the fair becomes the center of a complete little world, the nexus of town and country, and the metropolis of happiness. Somehow there are just about enough ribbons and smiles for all who meet at the fair.

Somewhere between summer and autumn might well be marked out a fifth season. Call it what you will—Forefall, Turnseason, or Fairtime! Town and country fairly crow and cackle setting up harvest festivals. The list of fairs runs high into the hundreds. You can enjoy your own community's proud showing, or take in one far afield. You run down the list:

Pipestone, Mt. Pleasant, Aurora, Springfield, Fort Worth, and Fresno; Paris, Portales, Chehallis, Hagerstown, Horseheads, and Huron; Des Moines, Du Quoin, Albuquerque, Opelika, Richmond, Chicago, Presque Isle, Plaquemine, Pueblo, Minot, Milwaukee, Missoula; Blackfoot, Boise, and Brocton, Geneseo, Raleigh, and Rutland; Yakima, Salem, Sedalia, Tupelo, Timonium. They are all good names for the fair association to conjure up the crowds with, but pretty soon you are on your way to your own.

The American fair is not all ballyhoo. Far from it! Each is an epic of competition, of the struggle for excellence, carried on in good sportsmanship and traditional neighborliness. Arts, skills, and inventive powers are given free play. What if your neighbor's heifer is judged a shade better than yours, and your wife's handicraft turns out second to a newcomer's blue ribbon product. There's another year ahead!

You enjoy the conventional amusements, but you get a great deal more out of mingling with the lively crowds, jostling and being jostled, cheering rival riders, singing in chorus. Maybe you lose a nickel on the mule race, squander many more on cold drinks, breathe a lot of dust, but you still have a chance to register the hardest punch or fool the weight guesser.

And it's good to be able to go home and show the ribbon you got from raising the biggest pumpkin.

Farm churned butter

Of the 222 million pounds of butter churned on farms last year, 3 pounds out of every 4 were produced in the South.

Pipe for fire fighting

An article in *Fire Control Notes* (Forest Service-USDA) for July compares the use of aluminum irrigation pipe and that of hose in forest fire suppression. Three-inch lightweight pipe and 2½-inch rubber-lined hose were tried. The pipe was laid in less than one-fourth the time required to lay the hose, and the fires were put out much faster. The picking-up process was also quicker with pipe, which is cleaner and easier to handle than the dirty, wet hose, which was the source of much complaining by the crews. Advantages of irrigation pipe over hose were summarized by L. A. Dorman, assistant district Supervisor, of the Michigan Department of Conservation, as follows:

It is much faster to lay and pick up.
It requires much less labor to handle.
It is cleaner and easier to handle.
It requires less maintenance (cleaning, drying, and storing, after use).
It can be used over longer distances because of less line loss and better pressure.
It does not deteriorate in storage.
With reasonable care it will outlast hose several times.
Its use makes possible the pumping out of fires rather than letting them smolder and burn out under patrol.

Burch edits farm Vet. Book

A new book easy to read and profit by is "Artificial Breeding and Livestock Improvement" written by G. W. Stamm and edited by Dallas S. Burch. It is at once a practical manual for the livestock grower and dairyman and an authoritative presentation of the principles that underlie artificial breeding and sound breeding practices. Within the last 10 years a great industry has grown out of artificial breeding. The book is clear, well organized, and well illustrated. Mr. Burch was for many years editor and information officer for the old Bureau of Animal Industry, of the Department. On his retirement in 1949 he moved to California, where he spends much of his time editing books on veterinary science. This attractive book, one of a series, is published by the Windsor Press, Chicago and New York. Price \$3.50.

Texas editor wins honors

Lois Mildred Yeager, CSS, Editor of *USDA Club News*, Dallas, Tex., has been voted the current honor member of the Club. Qualifications for the Award are "creating good will among the USDA employees, carrying on activities over and above normal operations of duty and promoting general operations of USDA." Miss Yeager holds a degree, with major in English, from Hardin-Simmons University. She became editor of the *Putnam News*, and successively held the jobs of secretary to two representatives in the State Legislature and secretary to a Texas Congressman in Washington, D. C.

Killing bollworms at gins

The burning of gin trash to destroy the pink bollworm, considered by many to be the world's most destructive cotton pest, may not be the best way of doing the job. USDA cotton research engineers and entomologists are making studies to find the most practical, economical, and speedy ways for getting rid of infested gin trash, or at least of destroying the pest. Much of the experimentation is being done at the USDA Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory, at Mesilla Park, N. Mex., and further down the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Composting, sterilization, fumigation, and hammer-milling are among the methods being compared. It is necessary to kill all the bollworms in the trash without slowing down the ginning operation.

Graduate School courses

AN EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT program for Federal employees in Chicago is being launched jointly by the Federal Personnel Council of that city and the University of Chicago. The USDA Graduate School has aided in the planning and organization of this program and has contributed some of the material which has been developed for the courses in its Washington program.

The Chicago program consists of seven seminars. One is for agency heads and will give an overview of the subject matter and methods of the other seminars. The others deal with: (1) Human relations; (2) executive use of organization; (3) public relations; (4) planning and controlling the work problem; (5) communication; and (6) managing the budget.

The Chicago program represents another successful effort by the Graduate School to encourage universities throughout the country to offer programs for Federal employees in the field service. In 1952 the Graduate School assisted Boston University and New York University in organizing special programs in those areas.

The Graduate School's fall semester in Washington will open on September 20. Registration will be held in the Patio of the Administration Building from September 11 through September 18. About 300 courses will be available for the student's choice, in fields of mathematics and statistics, physical and biological sciences, technology, public administration, languages and literature, office techniques, and social sciences. The School also offers 12 correspondence courses. Catalogs and schedules are available in Room 1031, South Building, or by calling Extension 6337.

Ornamental Chickens

Department booklet one Ornamental and Game Breeds of Chickens, *Farmers' Bulletin* 2066, succeeding an older bulletin on the subject is off the press. It is a companion bulletin to F. B. 2065, *Breeds of Chickens for Meat and Egg Production*.

September 8, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 18

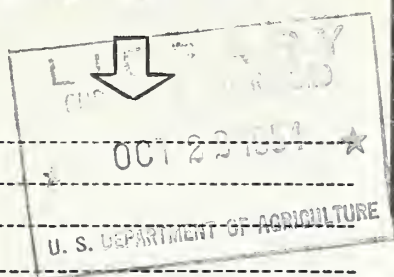
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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 1954



Farmers rely on research

RESEARCH PEOPLE, like artists and the rest of us, enjoy a word of appreciation. Research Agronomist Herbert W. Johnson of the Field Crops Research Branch, ARS, who spoke at the American Soybean Association meeting, Memphis, Tenn., recently on "The Expanded Program of Varietal Development Work in Soybeans," knows his audience, as well as his "beans." He said:

"The underlying objective of agricultural research has been to increase production efficiency. The success of this tax-supported and private research is demonstrated by the fact that in 1940 each individual employed on the farm produced enough food and fiber for himself and 11 others, whereas today each farming individual produces enough for himself and 17 others. Although research workers have found the ways and means of increasing the returns from each unit of land, labor, and capital invested, they cannot claim full credit for the increased production efficiency. Vigorous extension workers have carried the results of research to the farmers and demonstrated how they could be put into practice.

"Farmers have learned to rely on the recommendations of their experiment stations, and today the findings of research are put into practice quicker than ever before. The net result is that the backlog of research information that has not been accepted by farmers is diminishing steadily. In many cases this situation has resulted in greater emphasis on fundamental or basic research in an attempt to insure that we will continue to add to this backlog of research information."

Hillig wins Borden award

FRED HILLIG, research chemist in the Food and Drug Administration, and formerly of the old Bureau of Chemistry, USDA, has won the 1954 Borden Award in the Chemistry of Milk. The award, carrying a cash payment of \$1,000 and a gold medal, was announced at the national convention of the American Chemical Society in New York in September. It will be presented at the March meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the paper by Mr. Hillig will be read at the Minneapolis meeting in September 1955. It describes tests for detection of traces of decomposition.

This is the first time the award has been given to a member of the Food and Drug Administration. Mr. Hillig studied chemistry under the late Dr. Charles Evans Monroe at George Washington University, taking his degree in 1922. The Department has been honored several times with the Borden award in the chemistry of milk, with medals to Leroy F. Palmer in 1939; George E. Holm, 1942; Lester E. O. Whittier, 1943; William Mansfield Clark (now of Johns Hopkins), 1944; Ben H. Nicolet, 1945; George R. Greenbank, 1949; and Thomas L. McMeekin, 1951.

Calling county agents

S. R. BOSWELL, county agent of Utah County, Utah, reminds us that the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agents will be held in Salt Lake City, October 10-14. Some 750 are expected to attend. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has been invited by his native State to speak, and has accepted. The Intermountain Country plans to "do itself proud" in the way of demonstration and entertainment. Fatted calves—really fattening Utah steers—are being finished for the barbecue to highlight a tour of historic and scenic Box Elder Canyon.

Besides Secretary Benson, Director C. M. Ferguson of Federal Extension Service will attend from Washington, D. C. Stanley Andrews will come from East Lansing, Mich., as will deans and directors from several State agricultural colleges and experiment stations. J. Reuben Clark, a member of the Latter Day Saints Church Presidency, will speak at the opening session.

Your 8 pounds of peanuts

The 1954 peanut crop is expected to yield about 1,168 million pounds, or 26 percent less than last year. Agricultural Marketing Service says that as a result of drought, this year's crop will just about cover food and farm uses, with but a small supply remaining to be crushed for oil.

New employee legislation

THE LAST session of Congress passed many bills affecting Department employees. A great many of these bills have since been enacted into law. The Civil Service Commission and the Department are developing necessary guidelines, instructions, and regulations to implement the provisions of these laws, effective dates of which vary considerably. To speed the handling of employee inquiries and replies by their personnel officers, the Office of Personnel has prepared a brief summary of the bills and their provisions. The items are given by number, and in many cases the discussion by Director of Personnel Mac-Henry Schafer and members of his staff will answer questions likely to arise.

The summary follows:

1. Fringe employment benefits (P. L. 763). The major provisions are described below.
2. Group life insurance (P. L. 598) was discussed in a previous issue of *USDA*.
3. Unemployment compensation benefits for Federal employees (P. L. 767).
4. Authority to excuse per diem workers by Administrative Order and pay them for time off (P. L. 395).
5. Affecting retirements:
 - (a) Prohibits payment of annuities to employees convicted of certain offenses (P. L. 769).
 - (b) Makes permanent the temporary increases voted retirees several years ago (P. L. 747).
 - (c) Amends act to plug loophole which permitted certain disproportionate annuities (P. L. 730).
6. Authority to pay travel expenses of certain civilian employees stationed overseas and of their immediate families in connection with periodic leaves of absence (P. L. 737).

The major provisions of the Fringe Benefits Act are as follows:

A. Annual leave

Repealed the law requiring reduction of leave to 30 days, now permitting maximum carryover of 30 days or the amount carried over from the previous year, whichever is greater; also permits payment to a beneficiary for total leave carryover plus current year accumulations. Lump sum payment to a separated employee is still restricted to 30 days, or the unused amount carried over to the current year, whichever is greater.

B. Whitten Amendment

Modified to permit conversion of indefinite promotions to permanent tenure and authorizes the Civil Service Commission to establish a new "career-conditional" system.

C. Classification Act amendments

Authorizes more positions in super-grades; provides longevity step increases for employees in grades GS-11 through

15, inclusive, and credit for service toward longevity if an employee is reduced in grade; authorizes the Civil Service Commission to provide recruitment above the minimum rate of the grade; abolishes the CPC schedule and provides changeover to prevailing wage rates or to the General Schedule; limits total pay for overtime, night, and holidays, not to exceed the maximum scheduled rate of GS-15; provides overtime at 1½ times employee's basic hourly rate of pay for GS-9 and below and at GS-9 rate for persons in higher grades; makes certain provisions for compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay, and for minimum callback overtime, compensation for night work and for holiday work.

D. Work schedules

Continues provision requiring establishment of a basic administrative work week of 40 hours to be performed within a period of 6 of any 7 consecutive days and sets certain policy guides regarding work schedules.

E. Special provisions for certain types of work

Provides premium compensation, total pay not to exceed maximum GS-15 rate, for regularly long tours requiring stand-by duty (up to 25 percent additional); and, 15 percent additional pay for positions in which the hours of duty cannot be controlled administratively, requiring substantial amounts of overtime, night, holiday, and irregular or unscheduled working hours.

F. Incentive awards program

Repeals previous awards legislation and authorizes the Civil Service Commission to establish regulations for a new awards program; abolishes salary increases for superior accomplishment; increases maximum award to \$5,000 and in special cases to \$25,000 if approved by the Civil Service Commission.

G. Uniform allowance

Authorizes up to \$100 allowance for uniforms required by law or regulation.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Research Service: GEORGE T. ASBURY, steamfitter and pipefitter, Albany, Calif.; EDWARD J. SWAIN, operating engineer, Albany, Calif.; VERNE W. TRIFF, chemist, New Orleans, La.; MATILDA WONG, clerk-stenographer, Albany, Calif.

Soil Conservation Service: BILL G. JETER, soil conservation aid, Winnsboro, S. C.; GEORGIA Z. McAFEE, engineering aid (general), Corning, Calif.

Brief and choice

Farm economists look ahead

American Farm Economics Association discussed the prospects for agricultural economics for the next 10 years and installed Joseph Ackerman, head of the Farm Foundation, as new president of the Association at the annual convention, at Pennsylvania State University August 25. President Ackerman succeeds Dean Thomas K. Cowden of Michigan State College. Over 900 attended the sessions. Other officers elected were: Carl Brandt, Palo Alto, Calif., as president-elect for 1955-56; W. W. Cochran, University of Minnesota; Carol Bottum, Purdue University; and Earl V. Heady, Iowa State College, as vice presidents. Lowell S. Hardin, of Purdue succeeds Earl L. Butz, recently named Assistant Secretary of United States Department of Agriculture. Harold Halcrow, of Storrs, Conn., was named editor.

Names Sanitation Committee

Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke announces appointment of a Committee on Rural Sanitary Engineering. The following are members: Harry L. Garver, ARS, chairman; William V. Albright, FHA; Clifford A. Betts, FS; Mrs. Mildred S. Howard, ARS; Fred E. McVey, REA, George Phillips, SCS; and H. S. Pringle, Ext.

2 changes in personnel

Joseph P. Findlay has been transferred from the position of head of the Allocations Section of the Classification Division in the Office of Personnel to the position of Chief of the Division. Max P. Reid also has been promoted, from head of the Employment Program Development Section to Chief of the Employment Division.

Credits to Rhode Island hen

The 100th anniversary of the Rhode Island hen, was held late in August at Little Compton, R. I. The famous breed of chickens was developed from the crossing of Asiatic breeds with the ordinary barnyard flocks. The breed was further improved by the State Experiment Station, where the first poultry husbandry course in America was established in 1898 by Director A. A. Brigham, father of the late Reuben Brigham of USDA.

Cogdell joins FHA staff

Homer G. Cogdell, former Colorado State director for the Farmers Home Administration, has been appointed a member of the Administrator's staff in Washington, D. C. He will assist in directing the Administration's loan program. Leavitt A. Booth, of Arvada, is the new FHA director in Colorado, with offices in Denver.

Robot egg testing foreseen

When all the known mechanical methods of testing become generally available, it will be feasible to test eggs entirely by machine, according to AMS technicians whose findings were presented before the World's Poultry Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, last month. Weight, shape, shell strength, possible contamination or the existence of cracks can be determined by well known principles and new scientific devices. Shell eggs will pass through a machine, and the weak-shelled ones be detected and salvaged—an important saving. A radio-frequency test will reflect the size of aircells, and poor interior quality will be detected by use of lights and fluorescence.

The robots will do everything but throw eggs.

Naval Stores program

The USDA conservation program for producers of gum naval stores, administered by the Forest Service, as announced August 25, calls for no changes in the usual conservation practices. One new practice has been added, however. New participants will be paid 7½ cents per face for removal of cups and tins and the nails which hold them from faces installed on small trees in 1955. Payment for this practice is expected to encourage small gum farmers not now in the program to adopt improved treatment of their woodlands. Further information may be had from the Program Supervisor, United States Forest Service, Valdosta, Ga.

Homer G. Smith promoted

New Deputy Governor and Director of Cooperative Bank Service of Farm Credit Administration is Homer G. Smith. Mr. Smith has been with FCA for 20 years, most of which time he was engaged in work with the cooperative production credit system. He takes the position of J. D. "Doug" Lawrence who is returning to his position as president of the Columbia Bank for Cooperatives after a year's leave of absence from that position. As Deputy Governor and Director, Mr. Smith will be primarily responsible for the supervision of the 13 banks for cooperatives. Currently, more than 2,000 farmers' marketing, purchasing, and service cooperatives are using their services, with loans of \$304 million.

Dr. W. W. Diehl elected

Dr. William W. Diehl, mycologist of the section of Mycology and Plant Disease Survey, ARS, was elected president of the Mycological Society of America at its recent meeting at Gainesville, Fla. The Mycological Society is affiliated with the American Institute of Biological Sciences and with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Don't miss the USDA Hobby Show in the Patio, October 3-13

Dragnet on accidents

CONCLUSIONS of an accident analysis in the Blister Rust Control project on the Kaniksu National Forest, in Idaho, for the 7-year period, 1948-53, were as follows:

We can easily pick out the man who is most likely to have an accident in BRC work. Sixty percent of our accidents occur to employees 19 or younger. He will be a laborer and will have worked less than 2 months for us. He will be injured during the field season, either June, July, or August, and probably on Friday between noon and 4 p. m. If he is lucky (25 percent of the time) he will require only First Aid; he may require medical treatment (75 percent of the time); and if he is 1 man in 9, he will be a compensation case and will be disabled 19 days and will lose 7 days' pay. He will be injured either by a fall from a windfall, or will sprain an ankle, and the odds are stacked against him that he may be hit in the eye with a twig.

The only trouble with the average case above is that we won't be able to walk up to a man that fits the above description and tell him when he will have an accident, because accidents don't follow such an easy pattern. The accidents described could just as easily happen to you or me, and only a few of the figures need be changed.

Our graduate school

CALLING ATTENTION of all divisions and branches of Agricultural Research Service, to the educational facilities offered by the Graduate School of USDA, F. H. Spencer, Assistant Administrator for management of ARS, quotes Mac-Henry Schafer, Director of Personnel, in saying that "the School can be of increasing value to personnel of the Department if it is fully used." More than 4 percent of USDA employees in the Washington area attended GS courses last year, taking advantage of educational opportunities, and receiving instruction from some of the best teaching talent to be found anywhere in the Nation. Special courses can be set up at any time to meet immediate needs if sufficient students enroll to meet the costs. Mr. Schafer urged all employees to make full use of this unusual asset during the coming year.

Action on trade program

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has taken up its responsibilities for carrying out sales provisions of the "billion dollar surplus disposal program."

The Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, makes available \$700 millions of CCC commodities or funds for selling farm surpluses to friendly countries and accepting their currencies in return. The Executive order was signed by President Eisenhower September 9. Clarence Francis, a special consultant to the President, will head the program. Foreign Agricultural Service will handle the sales part of the act, and FOA the \$300 million relief portion.

To develop tobacco markets

To maintain and strengthen American tobacco marketing abroad through more favorable international trade relations is an objective of Foreign Agricultural Service, brought into prominence by appointment of Robert A. Owen as director of the program. Mr. Owen, from Cynthiana, Ky., has had long experience as a tobacco industry official. He finds that the export trade in United States tobacco is improving, but that increased competition for foreign outlets calls for more enterprising effort to hold a fair share of the world market. Several nations, particularly in the Mediterranean area, report heavy production this year.

Turkeys are early birds

Six million turkeys have been marketed by the farmers prior to August 1 this year, a gain of 20 percent over the same period last year. Production for 1954 is estimated at over 61 million birds, compared with a little over 56 million in 1953, showing a gain of about 9 percent. The farmers hope that year-round marketing will help materially in moving the increased production.

More milk for schools

Secretary Benson announces a program to provide \$50 million worth of additional milk for the schools of high school grade and under to increase the consumption of dairy products and to develop milk-drinking habits among children. The Agricultural Act of 1954 provided the means from CCC funds. State education agencies will administer the program, except in a few cases where Agricultural Marketing Administration will make direct distribution to private schools. Ten million children consumed 400 million quarts of milk last year, more than double the amount for the first year under the program.

Mobile unit coming September 30

The Red Cross blood mobile unit will be in the Department, September 30. Dr. Melvin T. Johnson, chief of the Division of Employee Health, recalls that General Hershey has recently commended USDA employees for their cooperation. Now that the supply in the blood bank is inadequate, a sharp increase in donations is needed. Keymen will call on donors, but anyone who is missed is invited to telephone Mrs. Hackett, extension 3281.

Dividends for farmers

Farmers pocketed \$3.8 million in dividends on the stock they own in their local national farm loan associations in the year ended June 30, 1954. Also, they increased their investments in these credit cooperatives \$5.7 million, bringing the total to \$75.7 million. These and other savings of land bank loans, made through these associations, attracted the largest number of farmer-borrowers since 1934-35. Loans for the system reached a total of \$1.2 billion, with many farmers besides borrowing for the usual purposes, refinancing both short-term and long-term debts incurred for capital improvements on their farms.

Helen Eisenhower memorial

Penn State University recently received a gift of \$50,000 for an all-faiths chapel as a memorial to the late Helen Eakin Eisenhower, who was the wife of Milton Eisenhower, president of the University. The gift was anonymous.

R. Ramon, sugar official, dies

Rafael Ramon, 49, a member of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, Caribbean Area Office, at San Juan, P. R., died August 28. Mr. Ramon was born in Rio Piedras. He studied in New York State high schools, the University of Puerto Rico, and at Finlay Engineering College, Kansas City, Mo. He came to the Department in 1937 after prior Federal service and was a performance specialist of the Sugar Program operations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Once USDA, always for USDA

Robert T. Hall, formerly of Farm Credit Administration, who retired last year, is back in the Department to do special service in the Nation's drought areas. "I am pleased to get back in harness long enough to do what I can to make more effective the Federal aid programs in the drought-stricken States," remarked Mr. Hall on accepting an appointment as special assistant to Kenneth L. Scott, director of the Agricultural Credit Service and chairman of the Drought Committee. Mr. Hall, born in Colorado, and now a resident of Vermont, will spend most of his time handling on-the-spot problems, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announced. He brings 20 years of departmental experience to the job.

Community Chest time

IN THE full tide of the fall harvesttime we pause to think of others less fortunate. Secretary Ezra Taft Benson has called attention to President Eisenhower's national appeal, on behalf of the United Community Campaigns of America. To assist Department personnel in doing their best, a departmental committee has been organized, with Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke as chairman and Assistant Administrative Secretary Ralph S. Roberts as vice chairman. Henry A. Donovan, ARS, is campaign aide to Mr. Roberts. Organization has been completed throughout the agencies, each having its own chairman and keymen. A Government-wide "kick-off" meeting was held at Jefferson Auditorium, September 22, and opening day, addressed by Ex-President Herbert Hoover, and Celeste Holm. A USDA rally is to be held at Jefferson Auditorium September 30. It was planned to conclude the work in about 2 weeks, the campaign continuing into October. Secretary Benson appealed to all Department people everywhere to give generously—not because they must, but because they may.

Query States on publications

HOW TO improve Department publications and develop closer coordination of USDA and land-grant publications programs is the subject of a letter of inquiry sent out late in August by Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, chairman of the Publications Review Committee. The query is addressed to land-grant college deans of agriculture, and the replies will be used by the committee in preparing its report and determining recommendations.

GWU claims USDA winners

The G. W. U. *Federalist* for September reminds its readers that 3 of the 9 USDA personnel who received Distinguished Service Awards in 1954 attended George Washington University. They are: Richard T. Cotton (AMS), Ph. D., 1924; George M. Darrow (ARS), Ex. 1947; and Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary, LL. M., 1934, and LL. B., 1933. Susie J. Frazier, Ex. 1939, and Ernest L. Struttman, Ex. 1941, received Superior Service Awards.

General registration for the fall term of the University was scheduled for September 23-24. The annual 3-day reunion will be held November 4-6, with the homecoming dance on the night of the 6th, at the National Guard Armory.

Echoes of Legion Week

LEGIONNAIRES OF USDA Post No. 36 participated in entertaining delegates to the national convention of the American Legion and took part in several of the ceremonies and the parade. The Department set up a large pictorial exhibit of USDA activities in the patio. Miss Betty Richter, ARS, was drum majorette of the National Guard of Honor Drum and Bugle Corps. Ellwood E. Jarnagin, CSS, was chairman of the services "For Country" held at National Archives on the night of August 30, when the building was illuminated for the first time.

Peter B. Pauli, CSS, finished his term of commander of the post, to be succeeded by John J. McBride, Jr., CSS, in mid-September. Mr. Pauli met a number of retirees from the Department in Washington for the convention. Among them were William Murphy, P&O, former commander of the post, retired in 1951, now of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Joe Koehl, P&O charter commander, now of Sarasota, Fla. Ed Seiller, formerly of FCA, and post commander in 1952, now in business in Louisville, Ky., was also a visitor.

Many thousands of USDA employees enjoyed the half holiday for the parade and joined in reunions with former comrades-in-arms and former Washingtonians.

More milk on airplanes

N. R. CLARK, Special Assistant to the Secretary, making studies of the use of surplus foods, while on a number of trips by airplane made an effort to enlist the air lines in serving more milk to the passengers. Invariably he found that hostesses were asking when the meal was served: "What will you have to drink; coffee, tea, or chocolate?" On busy trips they sometimes served coffee without asking.

In each case he asked the girls whether they had milk on the plane. They had, and the passenger got the milk. He suggested that milk perhaps be mentioned first, and soon found that the stewardesses volunteered enthusiastic cooperation, although this service sometimes required carrying more milk on the plane. People were drinking 8 to 16 times as much coffee as they were drinking milk, but it was believed that with hostess cooperation the consumption of milk would be increased substantially.

Swapping in midharvest

Should a small farmer buy used machinery? An interesting discussion of this question appears in the Rural Kentuckian, official publication of the REA Co-ops in Kentucky.

"The big farmer with a lot of hay cannot afford to keep his machinery after it starts having breakdowns . . . Machines that hold up harvesting must be sold, although there is a lot of life in them. The man with the small amount of hay can take this equipment off the big farmer's hands, at the depreciated price, and because the first farmer paid such a high price to depreciation, the second farmer can afford to pay some repair bills."

Well—too much involved here for quick answers. Maybe the first farmer ought to be a better manager and the second farmer a better mechanic?

Training extension workers

Twelve land-grant colleges and other major institutions of learning have undergraduate majors in extension education and 29 others offer one or more courses toward agricultural or home economics credits, according to a report by Miss Mary L. Collings, Chief of the Personnel Training Branch, Extension Service. Several colleges give also graduate study programs especially for extension workers. More than 900 extension workers attended summer school courses in 1953, and the enrollment is large in 1954.

Young farmer's faith

I believe that to live and work on a good farm is pleasant as well as challenging for I know the joys and discomforts of farm life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations, which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

—From the Creed,
Future Farmers of America

Where to find flowers

THE NEW USDA *Guide to Popular Floras of the United States and Alaska* proves to be a list of the books or booklets that people not botanically trained can use effectively in studying local wild plants in any chosen part of the country. It also helps to find the right book for a particular locality.

Dr. S. F. Blake, senior botanist, Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS, prepared this attractive little book, *Bibliographical Bulletin No. 23*, describing briefly 117 general and regional publications and 212 others covering the wild plants of 47 individual States. There are 17 listed for California, 13 for Florida, and 10 for Texas. Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania have 8 each. Many books listed are out of print but accessible in public libraries. The author's brief introduction is packed with lore about American floras and facts about standard references, making it easier for the non-technical botanist to "pursue his flower-strewn way." *Bibliographical Bulletin 23* may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 25 cents a copy.

We learn about poultry

DR. T. C. BYERLY, chief of the Animal and Poultry Husbandry Research Branch, ARS, who attended the 10th World's Poultry Congress, in Edinburgh, Scotland, late in August, believes Europeans can teach our people much about the poultry business. The American delegation made important contributions to the meeting, then toured Scotland and neighboring countries. Dr. Byerly sums up his own observations as follows:

"About 150 people from the United States attended the Congress. Most of them also saw poultry farms and research and teaching institutions in Scotland and England. Everyone was impressed by three things. First, poultry production in England and Scotland is done by individuals who know and apply good husbandry practices to a much greater extent than we do in the United States. This means higher labor cost and lower mortality there than here. Second, per capita poultry meat consumption there is only about one-seventh ours and their poultry prices are relatively much higher than ours. Third, we were all impressed by the excellent research reports presented at the Congress. Scientists from other countries and from the United States contributed very valuable information on feed utilization, progeny testing, hybrid breeding and control of the No. 1 killer of layers throughout the world, the avian leukosis complex. The Department's Regional Poultry Laboratory at East Lansing, Mich., and the Poultry Department at Cornell University were major contributors to research on this disease."

A word to MacHenry Schafer

Lucia Fraber, CSS, writes in the *Ag. Reporter*, as follows: We enjoyed reading the "To My Fellow Employees" letter written by our Director of Personnel MacHenry Schafer and published in USDA. We admire your philosophy, Mr. Schafer, and hope you will never have occasion to regret your decision to join our ranks in the all-important position of Personnel Director.

"Bad Eggs of Yesterday"

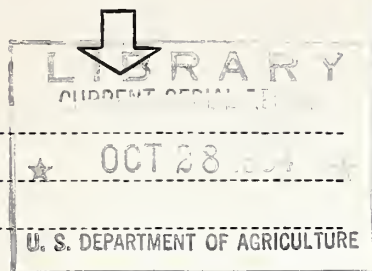
The Indiana Poultry Blue Book prints an article by H. L. Shrader, extension poultryman of the USDA, which tells of pioneering with an egg and poultry demonstration car in Indiana 38 years ago. The specially equipped refrigerator car was sent by USDA to demonstrate better packing and shipping of eggs. The article is an interesting travelog account under the title of "Bad Eggs of Yesterday."

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR OCTOBER 6, 1954

USDA weight reducers

SQUEEZING POUNDS out of the Department's educational exhibits is today a major activity of the Exhibits Service of the Office of Information.

Formerly, when groups of large exhibits on circuits of State fairs moved in carload lots and seldom exceeded the minimum car weight allowable, the weight of the exhibits was not a factor. Today exhibits are sent out singly or in small lots by less-than-carload freight and by express, and the more the pounds the greater the cost. Overweight has come to mean lessened opportunity to get the exhibits before the public.

The visitor to the new quarters of Exhibits Service in South Building finds men designing new exhibits, making every effort to get the "packed for shipment" weight as low as possible, consistent with interesting, impressive exhibits. This phrase "packed for shipment" is significant. It is not difficult to produce good exhibits at weights of 100 and 200 pounds, but by the time suitable shipping containers are added, the weight often is doubled. Shipping containers strong enough to protect the exhibits and fitted with padded slots and pockets for quick packing and unpacking run up shipping weights. For this reason the exhibit and container are now parts of the same design.

Existing large exhibits are studied for weight-reducing possibilities. By eliminating background panels and substituting rollup screens for this purpose, it has been possible to "squeeze out" several hundred pounds to a job. This reduction is particularly important now that more than half the showings of Department exhibits are made by cooperators like the State and County Extension Services who borrow the exhibits and pay transportation costs. Some nearby States send their own trucks for the exhibits.

New Yearbook arrives

The 1954 Yearbook of Agriculture, *Marketing*, was issued October 3. It is a compact book of 520 pages dealing with the many phases of marketing and distribution of products of the American farm. More than 100 writers contributed to this long-sought authoritative volume on the subject. Alfred Stefferud is the editor. The Department has no copies for general distribution. The book is sold by the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at \$1.75 a copy.

Coordinator in storm area

The Department of Agriculture has named Raymond H. Freeman, State director of the Farmers' Home Administration, Concord, N. H., as coordinator for USDA agencies dealing with agricultural problems arising from the recent New England hurricane disaster. Kenneth L. Scott, director of USDA's Agricultural Credit Services, announced that the appointment is "on a temporary basis, until the current problems are solved."

Jornada Ranch Day, Oct. 11

RANCH DAY under New Mexico skies and on the Jornada Experimental Range, ARS and U. S. Forest Service, and the New Mexico A. & M. College Ranch will be celebrated in the tradition of the last 14 years, October 11, at Las Cruces, N. Mex. The college, the Office of Experiment Stations, and the Forest Service will manage to sandwich in some good talks and demonstrations on range management, recovery from drought, re-seeding of ranges, and growing of range cattle. The Jornada country has weathered many droughts in the historic past, and Superintendent Fred N. Ares of the Forest Service will reveal a new program for the range. The guest speaker will be Leavitt Booth, past president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

Visitors will be welcomed personally and introduced by D. F. Beard, head of the Forage and Range Section, ARS; Raymond Price, director of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ft. Collins, Colo.; and John W. Branson, president of New Mexico A. & M. College.

The USDA picture story

ONE CAN never get a picture of the 65,000 employees of the United States Department of Agriculture, but he can get a picture of a representative group. This idea was uppermost when the Office of Information assembled photographs for an exhibit in the Administration Building Patio on occasion of the National Convention of the American Legion in Washington. The USDA planned to reproduce a photograph of the exhibit. Instead it was found more feasible to adapt the "organization chart" outline of the exhibit to the purpose of constructing the layout appearing on pages 2 and 3 of this issue of USDA. It was possible to use larger and clearer photographs and to "strip in" the legends for better readability. This chart and layout of photographs is dated September 24, 1954.

We feel that the Secretary and his staff and chiefs of the major groups and services of the Department are ours as much as we are theirs. Their leadership and loyalty are inspiring to the far-flung family of USDA. What manner of men are these? Perhaps no words can answer so well as a look into their faces. Many requests have come in for such a group of pictures as this. It is the privilege of the USDA Employees News Bulletin at last to present it. The photographs may enable you to recognize members of the official family when you meet them face to face, which we hope you will.

USDA Hobby Show, Oct. 3-13

The USDA employees' Hobby Show for 1954, to be held in the Patio, Administration Building, October 3-13 promises to be the most interesting of these popular annual events so far. A cup will be awarded to the agency having the highest percentage of employee participation.

The theme of the Hobby Show this year is "How to do it." A lot of lathes, looms, and lapidary tools have been busy since this time last year. A lot of gardeners, collectors, and artists, too. The show has become so big that it will be, as last year, divided into two parts, to fill the Patio in turn. First will be the Arts and Crafts division, October 3-6, and the other will be the Horticulture and Collectors' division, October 10-13.

Administrative study group

Assistant Secretary Earl S. Butz has designated a Study Group on Administrative Functions to review the effectiveness and efficiency of administrative services in the field. The group reports to the Field Services Review Committee. Its members are: Mark M. Kirkham, leader, Robert N. Bear, John Holden, Frank J. Hopkins, Lawrence K. Mays, Terry J. McAdams, Glenn Sitz, and Cylar H. Van Natta.

The group will be located in Room 113-A. Telephone is 5017.

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AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

COMMODITY STABILIZATION SERVICE



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Administrator

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION



TRUE O. MORSE
President

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION



R. B. McLEISH
Administrator

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION



ANCHER NELSEN
Administrator

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION



CHARLES S. LAIOLAW
Manager

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

September 24, 1954

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Administrative
Assistant Secretary



EZRA TAFT BENSON
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

STAFF ASSISTANTS



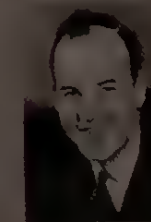
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Assistant to the Secretary



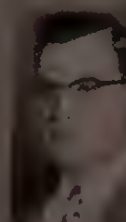
THOMAS I. FLAVIN
Judicial Officer



CHARLES EIGY
Assistant to the Secretary



FREDERICK W. BABEL
Assistant to the Secretary



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Assistant to the Secretary

September 24, 1954

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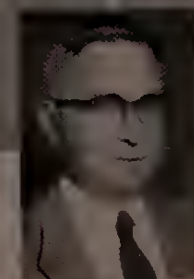
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ROSS RIZLEY
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Credit Services

FEDERAL-STATES
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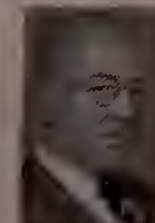
RICHARD E. MCAROLE
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Administrator

RURAL
ELECTRIFICATION
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ANCNER NELSEN
Administrator

Thoughts in season

THIS MONTH we received the 155th USDA Plant Inventory, a book recording some 3,000 or so new plant introductions into the United States in 1 year. Up to the end of 1947, author Paul G. Russell, ARS botanist, tells that 161,666 plants or plant materials had been sent from all quarters of the globe to this country. The report does not discuss in detail the vital economic significance of any of the introductions; it is austere held down to doing its catalog job. One has only to recall that majority of our staple and fancy field crops and fruits were brought here by immigrants and public or private explorers to make him wonder what potent plants or new strains may have crossed our borders lately unnoticed in the throng.

Introductions have been sent to growers from stations and gardens at Beltsville, Md.; Coconut Grove, Fla.; and Riverside and Chico, Calif., to meet further scrutiny for qualities of value for plant breeding, survival, and utilization. There are long lists of plants from that new-found ancient country of Korea, and of other plants collected in countries later snatched behind the Iron Curtain. Even this obstruction is vain.

Useful plants, like knowledge, tend to spread by the principle of diffusion and to migrate, with human help, into whatever place they are needed. No man-made barrier can long continue to hold back the flow of treasure.

Lab. lauded for blood donations

The folks at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, got a nice write-up in the Wisconsin State Journal for their fine participation in the Red Cross blood-donor program. The laboratory now has "30 gallon-donors among its staff of 360—one for every 12 persons in the group—it is reported. The Dane County average is 1 Gallon Club membership for every 500 population. Two hundred and one of the 360 staff members are donors."

Red Cross officials reported that Forest Products Laboratory participation in emergency bloodmobiles is not passive. "They don't just say yes," said Center Director Hamel, "they call and ask why we haven't scheduled them." Forest Products has contributed four times during the Christmas-New Year season; twice during the Easter season; twice just before or after the Fourth of July.

Names Butz to GS Board

Secretary Ezra Taft Benson has announced the appointment of Assistant Secretary E. L. Butz, as a member of the General Administration Board of the USDA Graduate School, to succeed John H. Davis, resigned. The members of the Board now are: E. L. Butz, C. M. Ferguson, chairman, C. O. Henderson, R. E. McArdle, James A. McConnell, True D. Morse, Ralph S. Roberts, Robert M. Salter, MacHenry Schafer, Byron T. Shaw, and Oris V. Wells.

USDA aid to drought areas

WITH THE designation by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson September 23 of 12 counties in North Carolina as drought disaster areas, the total of 682 counties had come into this classification. The "red" spots on a great map of the United States in the Department's Information office had grown week by week until they covered nearly a fourth of the country. President Eisenhower had already placed North Carolina on the drought disaster list. Kenneth L. Scott, director of credit services, and chairman of the USDA Drought Committee, took action in the 12 counties after observing intensification of the drought. Eligible farmers in the stricken areas may participate in the drought emergency programs.

These include a hay program, an emergency feed program, and special Farmers Home Administration loans. Eligibility for loans and participation is decided by county committees of FHA. Agricultural Conservation Program funds also may be used for emergency practices on a cost-share basis with farmers in drought-stricken areas, and where 1954 funds are insufficient, the committees have authority to open the 1955 program.

Meat-type hog exhibit

AN ELABORATE meat-type-hog show, in pictorial exhibits, will be held in the Patio, Administration Building, in November. A number of industrial concerns will join with the Department in making this probably the most comprehensive exhibition of its type ever held.

Much of the material for the meat-type-hog show featured at the Ohio State fair and at other fairs held in 1954, has arrived back in Washington, and the Exhibits Service is putting it in order for presentation in the Patio. The USDA exhibit, some of which has been viewed here, has proved most attractive to producers, processors, and consumers at fairs over the country. This consideration plus the nationwide need of hogs producing more meat and less lard led industry and Government agencies to cooperate in planning a large-scale educational show in Washington.

Always the student

Harry Irion, since his retirement from Forest Service in 1951, has been making studies of the early settlements and life of Western Virginia (now West Virginia). Born in Ohio, he spent his youth in Gallipolis, right across the river from West Virginia, counting the late O. O. (Odd) McIntyre among his friends. He has long been interested in pioneer history.

Announcing examinations

NEW CIVIL Service examinations for filling positions in the Department of Agriculture are described below. Copies of announcements may be obtained from first- or second-class post offices, Civil Service Regional Offices, USDA Field Boards, or by writing to the Office of Personnel, USDA, Washington, D. C.

JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANT, GS-5. To be announced around the middle of October. Positions are located throughout the United States. This examination is used for the recruitment of outstanding young people into a variety of professional, scientific, and technical fields at the trainee level. Appointments are made to trainee-type positions where the employee will be prepared for the assumption of greater responsibility in higher level positions. Options to be included in this year's examination are as follows: Agricultural Economist, Agricultural Writer-Editor, Agronomist, Bacteriologist, Botanist, Cotton Field Representative, Cotton Technologist, Dairy Manufacturing Technologist, Entomologist, Fishery Biologist, Forester, Grain Inspection Supervisor, Horticulturist, Market Reporter (Livestock), Marketing Specialist (Livestock and Meat Standardization and Grading), Marketing Specialist (Marketing Research), Plant Pathologist, Soil Scientist, Statistician, Wildlife Biologist, and Zoologist (Parasitology).

VETERINARIAN (TRAINEE), GS-5. Announced October 5. Positions are located throughout the United States. Persons appointed will serve as trainees in the field of veterinary medicine in the Agricultural Research Service during the summer of 1955. This offers excellent opportunities to junior students of veterinary medicine to further their education and to broaden their knowledge of the whole field of veterinary science by working with experienced and capable veterinarians. When the student trainees are graduated from veterinary college, they will be eligible for a position of Veterinarian with the Agricultural Research Service. (Ask for Announcement No. 423 (B).)

SCIENTIFIC AID (COTTON), GS-2 to GS-5 (Optional Branches: Fiber Technology and Textile Technology). Announced September 28. Positions are located in Washington, D. C., and vicinity. Persons appointed to these positions will perform subprofessional scientific work which will consist principally of research in and testing of cotton fiber and cotton textiles, including studies on manufacturing and processing. (Ask for Announcement No. 419 (B).)

Renville, new soybean

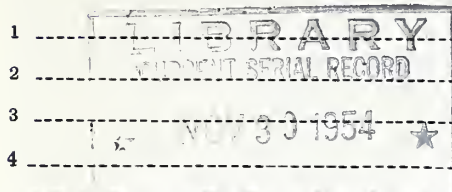
A sturdy soybean, early ripening and having a local record for the highest oil production, has recently been perfected by the University of Minnesota, and named Renville. The original crosses were made at the U. S. Regional Soybean Laboratory at Urbana, Ill. No seed will be available before 1955.

October 6, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 20

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR OCTOBER 20, 1954

16th Agricultural Census

THE 1954 CENSUS of Agriculture is getting on its way, and nearly 30,000 enumerators will soon be in the field. It will continue into November and December.

The reports will be printed in five large volumes, composed of 1 to 34 books each, most of the books running into hundreds of pages. Volume I, with 34 books of county and State economic areas, will cover numbers of farms, acreage, value, type of farm operators, facilities, labor, value of products sold, and many other items. The second volume will cover the statistics of American farming; the third, irrigation; the fourth, drainage, and the fifth, special reports, including 10 principal items, from horticultural specialties to farm characteristics by economic subregions.

Individual data will be confidential and for statistical purposes only. Most of the existing figures on farms and farm products come from previous 5-year agricultural censuses. The new census will bring figures up to date, and add much new information. The questions were framed by the Bureau of the Census on advice from agricultural colleges, farm publications and organizations, and State and U. S. departments of agriculture. The first complete agricultural census was in 1850, the most recent in 1950.

A brief summary of the benefits of the census was given in a letter from Secretary Ezra Taft Benson to Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce: "These quinquennial censuses are of great importance not only in the work of this department but also to American agriculture and to many other industries dependent upon agriculture as a source of raw materials or as a market for their products. They furnish data, available from no other source, that are widely used by business organizations and in Government policy formation and administration."

Vernal alfalfa seed ready

A limited quantity—1½ to 2 million pounds—of Vernal alfalfa seed is being harvested for spring sowing. The new alfalfa variety has high wilt resistance, and appears equal to Grimm alfalfa for winter survival. It was developed at the Wisconsin station in cooperation with the USDA. The seed is produced under auspices of the Foundation Seed Project, which is shared by the Department, 35 States, the Inter Crop Improvement Association and the seed trade to build quantity stocks of seed for superior forage varieties.

Save soil, save wildlife

"You recognize that this country can never have an effective wildlife conservation program except by building it around adequate conservation programs for the soil, forest, range, water, and other natural resources that are inextricably tied to wildlife."

—D. A. WILLIAMS, *Administrator, Soil Conservation Service.*

Extends hay program

THE DEPARTMENT early this month made an initial allocation of \$500,000 to the 34 drought-designated counties in Tennessee, with an initial disbursement of \$125,000 to enable the farmers to obtain hay at reduced transportation rates. Kenneth L. Scott, Director of Agricultural Credit Services, announced that if any State participating in the hay program required additional funds, these would be provided promptly, and if necessary, the initial allocations would be increased. Contracts signed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the governors of the 13 States were in effect by October 5. Eligibility of applicants is determined by FHA county committees.

Secretary Benson recently expressed appreciation to the American railroads for the temporary 50-percent reduction in freight rates on shipment of hay into drought-area States. Most of the railroads agreed to the reduction, to go into effect this month and continue until December 15. Mr. Benson said the reduction would make it possible for far greater numbers of farmers to get badly needed hay supplies.

Want 60,000 housekeepers

A MAN'S house is his castle; it is right that he defend it. His office is his house for the day; should he not look to the housekeeping? Thoughts like these have been running through the minds of USDA administrators, who walk into our offices and, perhaps, may find walls defaced, floors littered with papers and burnt matches, desks in heaped-up confusion. Wherever we are, callers are likely to judge Government officials by the state of their offices.

The increasing difficulties of General Services Administration, having fewer people to send and more papers to pick up, and the need of Department-wide cooperation in housekeeping, have led to exchanges between Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts and Edmund F. Mansure, GSA Administrator, in the interest of greater neatness and safety. Appealing to the "pride of ownership" in employees, the USDA in October 1949 sent out a leaflet on "good housekeeping." Improvement was soon quite noticeable. Mackie W. White, chief of the Real Estate Division, P & O, and Paul F. Loehler wish to appeal to Department employees through USDA.

It may be that our office has been allowed to get shabby; what have we done to make it attractive? Paul Loehler writes: We can make a start. To do our bit for a cleaner place to live. May we suggest:

1. Use ashtrays for discarded smoking materials and the wastebasket for paper and trash. *Not the floor.*

2. Keep hands and feet off the walls. Don't use thumbtacks, nails, or scotch tape on walls.

3. Turn off lights and other electric appliances when not needed. Close water faucets *tight*.

4. Reduce heating and ventilating costs by controlling ventilation; i. e., open windows only when necessary.

5. Use trash receptacles instead of floors in corridors and washrooms for disposal of trash, lunch bags, and paper towels.

Earl Hughes joins CSS

Earl M. Hughes of Illinois has been appointed as a consultant to Administrator James A. McConnell of the Commodity Stabilization Service, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announces. Mr. Hughes will work directly with the Administrator on problems related to price-support operations and administration. A graduate in agriculture at the University of Illinois, he later specialized in marketing and farm management work during graduate study. He served as agricultural economist with the Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.

Farm policy lectures

A LECTURE SERIES on farm policy arranged by the USDA Graduate School will continue through the fall season, Director T. Roy Reid announces. The lectures are given in Jefferson Auditorium. Homer Brinkley, of Farmers Cooperatives, and Dean Welch, of the University of Kentucky, have already spoken. Lecturers to follow are:

A. C. Hoffman of Kraft Foods Co., on Developing Domestic Markets, November 3; Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin, University of Nebraska, Providing Research and Education, November 17; Dr. Erven Long, rural sociologist, University of Tennessee, on Assisting Low-Income Farmers, November 24; J. Kenneth Galbraith, economist, Littauer School, Harvard University, Farm Policy in Relation to General Economic Policy, December 1; and Charles M. Hardin, Department of Political Sciences, University of Chicago, A Political Scientists' Analysis of Issues of Agriculture, December 8. Meetings will be at 4 p. m. Admission free. Frederick V. Waugh, AMS, is chairman of the lecture committee.

Richey, corn chief, retires

DR. FREDERICK D. RICHEY, experimenter in the genetics of hybrid corn, and an authority on practical aspects of large-scale production of crossed corn, retired from the Department of Agriculture September 30. He had devoted more than 40 years to this crop through the period of its great increase in efficiency as a food and feed producer.

Dr. Richey was associate chief of the then Bureau of Plant Industry in 1934, and chief from 1934 to 1938. He then operated a private corn-breeding firm for 5 years in Ohio, and returned to the USDA, where he has been in charge of its corn work in the South since 1943, with headquarters at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

He was born in St. Louis, Mo., and is a 1909 graduate of the University of Missouri, which gave him an honorary doctor of science degree in 1949. He began corn investigations in Plant Industry in 1911, and has been active in corn work ever since that year. Dr. Richey became the leader of the corn project of the Department in 1922. He was secretary of the Purnell Corn Committee that arranged for the exchange of inbred lines and of information among corn breeders. He became an authority on the history of corn and corn improvement, traveling to Latin America to collect primitive and modern specimens of the

maize plant, writing extensively, and bringing out new methods for improvement. He is prominent in professional societies, and is acclaimed wherever hybrid corn is grown throughout the world.

New grain inspection centers

The heavy movement of grain to market shifts considerably with the years. To provide more adequate supervision of grain inspection in port and market areas where the grain movement has grown rapidly, the Department has established four new offices—at Des Moines, Iowa; Houston, Tex.; Mobile, Ala.; and Norfolk, Va. Agricultural Marketing Service will supervise inspection under the U. S. Grain Standards Act, and will handle appeals. Flour, soybean oil, and various grain products will also be inspected.

Canada in tobacco market

Production of tobacco in Canada has about doubled in the last 10 years, reaching an alltime high of 159 million pounds for 1954, according to James A. Birkhead, tobacco specialist of Foreign Agricultural Service, who returned in September from a trip through the tobacco-producing areas of Canada. About 150 million pounds of the crop is flue-cured. Growers were permitted to plant the entire "base acreage" of flue-cured this year. This tobacco is heavybodied, and has distinctive aroma, apparently liked in the United Kingdom, which charges Canadian exporters 21.7 cents per pound less duty than is paid by American exporters. The British buy 20 to 30 million pounds per year, making Canada an important competitor of the United States in this and other markets.

Gardner, horticulturist, dies

John Joseph Gardner, who retired from the Department 5 years ago, died of a heart attack while working in his flower garden at Sebring, Fla., October 4. He had been professor of horticulture at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Illinois, and at Colorado State College. His assignments in the Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, included heading the inspection unit at Pittsburgh, Pa., and shipping points in West Virginia.

Plaque presented seed unit

A bronze plaque Superior Service Award was presented by O. V. Wells, Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, to the Seed Testing Section of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Seed Branch at Beltsville, September 23. The award was "For compiling the first complete manual on seed testing, which facilitates the work in Federal, State, and commercial laboratories throughout the United States." O. L. Justice, chief of the Section, commented upon the background work done by many seed analysts over a period of many years, including the drawings made by the late F. H. Hillman and Helen H. Henry.

One of the difficult undertakings in the field of seed testing is to give to seed analysts throughout the country, and in other countries also, detailed guidance in making interpretations in germination testing and making identifications in purity testing. The manual "Testing Agricultural and Vegetable Seeds," USDA Handbook No. 30, is a compilation of the findings of the workers in the Section and of later information. The presentation is a sequel to the announcement by Secretary Benson of the Superior Service Award at the awards ceremony last May. Handbook 30 is for sale by the Government Printing Office. Price (in buckram), \$4.

Extension looks ahead

SIXTY EXTENSION leaders held a review and planning workshop at Purdue University, September 27-October 1. The regional meeting, the first of its kind, developed following summer sessions that were attended by 600 to 700 extension workers.

The universities and colleges serving as training centers are the following: Cornell University, University of Wisconsin, University of Arkansas, Colorado A. & M., and Prairie View A. & M. in Texas.

Deputy Administrator O. C. Croy, M. C. Wilson, and others from the Washington office of the Federal Extension Service attended. Dr. Ralph Tyler, of Chicago University, served as major consultant. Mary L. Collings, one of the Washington delegates, said that the meeting furnished a good opportunity for training and development to meet the needs of a greatly extended extension program.

AMS writers win awards

TWO OF the three \$250 prizes awarded in September by the American Farm Economics Association for outstanding agricultural research reporting were won by Agricultural Marketing Service personnel. The two publications and their authors were: "The Demand and Price Structure for Oats, Barley, and Sorghum Grains," USDA Technical Bulletin 1080, by K. W. Meinken, Agricultural Economics statistician; and "A Spatial Equilibrium Model of the Livestock-Feed Economy in the United States," by Karl A. Fox, printed in the October 1953 issue of *Econometrica*, Journal of the Econometric Society. Mr. Fox was formerly chief of the Statistical and Historical Research Branch, and is now with the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

The Washington Chapter of the American Marketing Association presented honorary awards to Marguerite C. Burk, economist in AMS, for "carefully prepared well classified" Handbook No. 62, entitled "The Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," and to Richard J. Foote, analytical statistician in AMS, and to Mr. Fox for their Handbook No. 64, "Analytical Tools for Measuring Demand," published in January 1954. The citation calls these publications outstanding and "well-designed to acquaint research workers on marketing with recent developments in analyzing factors that affect the prices and consumption of individual commodities."

Recognition for Irving

GEORGE W. IRVING, Jr., has been appointed deputy administrator of Agricultural Research Service, in charge of research, Administrator Byron T. Shaw announces. Dr. Irving transfers from Chief of the Biological Sciences Branch, AMS, to ARS. In the new position he will coordinate investigations of the 16 branches in ARS engaged in studies in many fields of agricultural science.

An outstanding scientist in biochemistry, Dr. Irving's work for the Department since his entry in 1928 has been mainly of the fundamental research type. He pioneered in experiments with plant growth regulators and the use of radioisotopes. He was member of a Department group that received a Superior Service Award for isolation of the antibiotic tomatine and an award by Washington Academy of Sciences. He contributed to the recent isolation of the posterior-pituitary hormones. In the Biological Sciences Branch he was charged with responsibilities for research directed toward maintaining the quality of food products.

Born in Aroostook County, Maine, Dr. Irving attended schools in Seattle, Wash., and Washington, D. C.; taking his bachelor of science and master's degrees from George Washington University—chemistry in 1933 and biochemistry in 1935. For 20 busy years, he served the USDA, taught in medical school, did research on enzymes for the Rockefeller Institute in New York, and on proteins and oils of southern crops at New Orleans, biochemistry and plant diseases at Beltsville. He became assistant chief of the old Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1947.

Nebraskan joins TV

Leo E. Geier of Nebraska, who did production work on the "Great Plains Trilogy," a 39-weeks series of TV shows at the University of Nebraska, has joined TV Specialist Jules Renaud in the Radio and Television Service, Office of Information.

Dr. L. R. Waldron, geneticist

Dr. L. R. Waldron, retired plant breeder of North Dakota Agricultural College, wheat and grass expert, and geneticist of worldwide fame, died in Fargo, August 22. He created many new resistant strains of wheat, the best known being Ceres, Rival, and Mida, and up to the time of his death had experiments under way to discover more strains resistant to the new rust 15-B. Dr. Waldron's interest in resistant wheats dated from his college days, when he worked in the experimental fields over 53 years ago for 12½ cents an hour. He published hundreds of bulletins and articles. With Dr. H. L. Bolley, he was author of a book of the first list of plants of North Dakota.

USDA: October 20, 1954

Outlook Conference, October 25-29

The 32d annual Agricultural Outlook Conference will be held October 25-29. Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse will welcome the delegates from all over the United States and Puerto Rico, and C. M. Ferguson, administrator of the Federal Extension Service, will preside. Current, long-time, and general economic trends and prospects will be reviewed. An analysis of agriculture and the national economy will be made by Assistant Secretary Earl L. Butz, and a report on prospects for foreign agricultural exports will be given by Administrator W. G. Lodwick, of Foreign Agricultural Service. The second sessions will cover immediate farm prospects, prices, and the family-living outlook. AMS specialists will report on commodities. The last 3 days will be workshop sessions, largely for discussions by State extension and Department economists and designed to encourage greater exchange of information between State and Federal groups.

Maryland U. poultry center

Maryland University has a new poultry building and poultry science laboratory. The building was dedicated September 12, and named Jull Hall, in honor of Dr. Morley Jull, head of the poultry husbandry department of the university. The American Poultry Historical Society gave it also the name of the Poultry Industry's Hall of Fame, and portraits of distinguished leaders in the poultry industry, including research, extension work, and production, may be officially located here. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Governor T. R. McKeldin of Maryland, and officials of the university were on the program.

Retirees' official dies

Ernest G. Dodge, retiree from the Civil Service Commission since 1945 and treasurer of the National Association of Retired Civil Employees, died August 29. He was also an authority on Esperanto.

Australians seeing U. S.

AUSTRALIANS ARE looking at us this year. Recent visitors, Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Powne, of Brisbane, Queensland, having interest in sheepraising at home, recently completed a 3 months' tour of rangelands and stations in the Western States. They conferred with Dr. D. W. Cassard, at Davis, Calif., and Don Terrell at Hopland Field Station; observed new methods of calculating wool yields with Prof. P. E. Neale at Mesilla Park, N. Mex.; and studied experimental pasture methods with Dr. W. T. Magee, at Sonora, Tex. They arranged itineraries after consulting T. D. Watkins at Beltsville and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Edwards of Washington.

Among the many mementos of his travels on the American ranges, Dr. Powne brought back to Washington a specimen of what the Queenslanders call a Noogoora bur. "It spreads easily," he said, "and is a dreadful thing in a sheep country." Washington botanists identified it as a species of cocklebur, pretty dreadful here, too.

Cotton exports gain

COTTON EXPORT from the United States showed a marked increase the past year. Exports for the year ended July 31, 1954, totaled 3,914,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (3,761,000 running bales), representing a 23-percent increase over the total of 3,181,000 bales exported in 1952-53. July exports totaled 237,000 bales, compared with 121,000 in July a year ago, and were the highest for the month of July since 1950.

The larger exports in July 1954 are attributed by *Foreign Crops and Markets* (FAS) to the favorable price ratio with foreign-grown cotton in recent months, the end-season clearance of shipments under the foreign aid program, and the ending early in July of a strike at Galveston, Tex., by dock and warehouse employees.

New book on farm credit

FAULTY JUDGMENT in appraisal of the productivity of a piece of land and of one's own ability to meet future payments are perhaps the major causes of mortgage-payment distress. A new book, *Mortgage Lending Experience in Agriculture*, by Lawrence A. Jones (ARS) and David Durand, covers the field authoritatively.

The authors have drawn on the experience of the Farm Credit Administration and that of other economists in the USDA, as well as various other Government and private agencies. Miss Esther Colvin, ARS editor, who reviews the book, points out that the authors have also taken into consideration technological changes, drought, pests, prices, and historical and geographic factors in completing the study. The result is a book that will be useful to farmers, bankers, insurance companies, social scientists, and others concerned with farming and farm credit. This is a National Bureau of Economics Research book, published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. Price \$5.

Atomic research and REA

The best contribution that REA can make immediately in the field of providing electrical power through atomic energy is to keep up with the research as it progresses, in the opinion of Ancher Nelsen, Administrator of REA. Some employees are already at work on atomic research projects. Passage of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 is hailed as an outstanding event of the year. Mr. Nelsen expects the initial atomic production of electric power to be expensive, but predicts that it will result in lower cost of power for all the people eventually. In a report to the directors of REA-financed rural electric systems, Mr. Nelsen points to lower cost operation and administration, lower power costs, retention of low interest rates, and other improvements in 1954.

Study of living things

SCIENCE AND study in the coming years will concern themselves more and more with living things of the plant and animal world, President F. L. Hovde, of Purdue University, who is also president of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, told the committees and faculty of the USDA Graduate School at the annual luncheon meeting in September. It was also his opinion that the study of politics should play a high part in the educational field of today because "that element of modern life shapes the immediate destinies of millions, whereas other scientific and cultural preoccupations do not bring action so quickly."

Dr. Hovde expects the country to go ahead with its present expansion of production and activity, yet realizing all the while that the time may come when many of its resources may face exhaustion. In this active world, so long as there are no new fundamental problems, social changes are likely to move slowly. It is a world in which the American individual will continue to hold sway.

Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse presided. Dr. T. Roy Reid, Director of the Graduate School, also addressed the meeting.

"Infinite variety"

ONE SECRET of success of the recent Hobby Show in the Patio was its "infinite variety," concludes Charles H. Cunningham, WA, who managed the biggest hobby show so far. Anyone could pick his favorite out of the hundreds of exhibits and stand by for visitors' comments.

The proudest showings of handicraft or horticulture were greeted with words of joyful surprise or with faint praise, according to the tastes of the viewer! Were we not all amateurs, or not-long-since amateurs, together! The pains we put into our works may have showed a little around the edges, but who cared for that? For we were riding new as well as high—all out for fun at the Hobby Show—and the *artist-comelately* belonged as well as the professional. The gold cup for the agency with the highest percentage of representation was won by the Forest Service, and there were several runners-up. Manager Cunningham, asked for tips on putting on a Hobby Show, said:

"Just get in and work; any USDA group can do it."

We could drink more milk

Ireland is the leading dairy-products-consuming nation, with a consumption equivalent of 1,382 pounds of milk per person. New Zealand, the prewar leader, is second. The leading consumer of fluid milk is Sweden, with a per capita consumption of 513 pounds. With a per capita consumption of 44 pounds per person, New Zealand is the leading butter-consuming nation. Norway and Switzerland are leading consumers of cheese, says Foreign Agricultural Service.

The United States, the largest milk-producing country in the world, ranks with the leading consuming nations only in fluid-milk consumption; the 350 pounds per capita consumption results in a ranking of eighth. Per capita dairy production in the United States in 1953 gained slightly. Consumption of fluid milk was 352 pounds in 1952 compared to 350 pounds in 1953, but it showed a gain of about 20 pounds over prewar use.

Information link

A list of new manuscripts received from USDA people by the Division of Publications, Office Information, is now sent monthly to the directors and associate directors of State experiment stations. States and the Department are kept mutually informed of research work carried on.

Mohrhardt, new librarian

THE NEW Director of the USDA Library, Foster E. Mohrhardt, assumed his duties September 7. He came to the Department from the post of Chief of the Library Division, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans' Administration. He succeeds Ralph R. Shaw, who resigned in August to become professor of bibliography at Rutgers University. Assistant Director Louise O. Bercaw was in charge during the interim.

Director Mohrhardt, who holds degrees from Michigan State College, Columbia University, and the University of Michigan, and a diploma from the University of Munich, was born in Lansing, Mich. He became visiting professor at the Library School, Columbia University; consultant to the Atomic Energy Commission; Chief of the Technical Report Division, OTS, Department of Commerce; and had served as librarian at Washington and Lee University.

Thirty years ago, Mohrhardt took a student-assistant library job and, of course, was put in charge of USDA publications. He has met so many longtime as well as new friends here that he considers the Department the friendliest place in the known world. Nor must we omit the recreational side. Foster Mohrhardt, though of medium height, was a member of the Michigan Agricultural College (now MSC) wrestling team for 3 years. In Washington he finds a teammate, George Ferrare, Chief of the Division of Forest Products Research, Forest Service.

Express yourself!

"HOW'S YOUR Writing and Speaking Quotient?" asks Werner Meyer of OES. "You may have a high I. Q., but can you make people believe it? Can you write and speak effectively?"

The above questions followed reading of a report on Dr. Robert Buchele's program of teaching in the University of California in Los Angeles. One hundred and twenty ratings were made of 50 top business executives planning to take a course in business administration. Two of the commonest weak points in these executives were found to be their inability to write and speak well. The rating was done by their superiors and their peers. Ninety percent of the business candidates ranked high in intelligence, industry, and initiative; 70 percent high in leadership; but only 50 percent in writing and speaking. The comparisons for rating were confined to the group—so there's a loophole for human vanity. What might the rating have been, if the "guinea pig" executives had been in competition with the rest of us? Or could we have stood up to them?

(Writing and speaking courses are given, spring, summer, and fall, in the USDA Graduate School and in whichever college may be convenient to you.)

Medallion for Dean Martin

The Gold Medallion for Distinguished Service to New Jersey Agriculture was awarded recently to Dean and Director William H. Martin of New Jersey College of Agriculture and Experiment Station. The medallion was presented by the New Jersey Agricultural Society, which was founded in 1781.

Using imagination

Achievement in business is dependent upon imagination. There are few fairy tales in business. Usually they will be found behind the success of an individual who possessed creative energy and was willing to explore new and better ways of doing the job.

—Land Bank Exchange, Houston, Tex.

Oct. 20, 1954; Vol. XIII, No. 21

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 3, 1954

The ASC job for 1955

DROUGHT AND floods have underlined provisions of the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program. The program is being administered by local ASC farmer-elected committees. At this time of the year local committees are busy taking requests for cost-sharing under the program.

County recommendations by representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, and others cooperating with local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees were made with drought and dust storms calling for immediate action in some parts of the country and floods and water erosion in others.

The 1955 ACP provides for meeting these emergencies quickly as they may come. Consistent with basic principles of the program, the ACPS Administrator may approve for local use in a county practices for treatment of critical conservation problems, primarily those which have arisen subsequent to the initiation of the program in the county. Such approval is given only when ASC Committees, SCS, and Forest Service representatives agree that such emergency action is needed and that proposed practices will meet the problem.

The main objective of the program is the protection of the public's interest in the Nation's soil and water resources. To accomplish this, costs are shared for conservation measures which are needed in the public interest but which farmers and ranchers would not carry out to the extent needed. The sole purpose for the program is the advancement of agricultural conservation as a means of protecting and improving the Nation's sources of food, fiber, and many other essential farm products.

Under the 1955 program, farmers may have more than 1 year in which to complete "package type," or multiple-unit conservation measures. An example of

this practice is the establishing of a protective sod cover, which may require preparation of the land, the application of lime and fertilizer, seeding, and in some instances fencing.

In some counties the program is already underway and farmers and ranchers may now request cost-sharing. In other counties the program is being developed and within a few weeks will be made available to farmers and ranchers.

Any farmer may request this cost-sharing, but only locally approved conservation practices are eligible, and in many instances funds are not available to meet all requests. Often cost-sharing can be approved for only a part of the practices a farmer may request.

A further limitation—in the program by Congressional action—limits cost-sharing to \$1,500 to any one person. Of course, the average is much less than this. For 1953 the average per farmer was \$86.

Two pens for Earl Coke

ASSISTANT SECRETARY J. Earl Coke, who came into the Department with Secretary Ezra Taft Benson in January 1953, was given a farewell party October 14. He is returning to his position as Director of Extension Service, at the University of California, after about 2 years of great activity in the Department, in which he headed one of the major groups, that of Federal-States Relations. Secretary Benson was the principal speaker. Presents for Mr. Coke included two fountain pens, "one for signing papers in cooperative work with the Department and one for use in his job at the university." At least 200 of his associates shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Coke on the eve of their departure for California.

Mr. Coke will be succeeded as Assistant Secretary by Ervin L. Peterson, who has been Director of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture since 1943. The new appointment will be effective November 15.

Savings in marketing

HOMEMAKERS ARE able to earn about 45 cents an hour for extra time used in preparing meals from foods in the "rough" form; meals using ready-to-serve foods cost over a third more, but save as much as two-thirds in time of preparation. These conclusions from recent surveys are presented in the September *Agricultural Situation*. The processed foods have undoubted advantages, and consumers have a choice to make in purchasing food; under the circumstances it is the consumer's choice, whether to save food money or to save time.

The part of the consumer's dollar that the farmer doesn't get is increasing. This is true in the main because consumers buy less and less of the farmer's product in the rough form in which it leaves the farm and buy more and more in a finished form. To put the stuff in the form the people want means extra work—an extension of marketing services of one kind or another—for which the buyer, of course, has to pay. There is extra work for processing, for packaging, for handling, for the many different services that go into present-day marketing.

Transportation, processing, storage, and distribution cost money, but there is one bright side for the farmer—much more of his product is consumed because of wider distribution. Orange juice is a good example. Ability to store food over considerable periods has helped to sell more poultry, and more of all the produce that is delivered frozen or in cans. A present activity of Agricultural Marketing Service is the development of methods for making savings in marketing costs, in which savings producer and consumer should share.

Four skills to strive for

Civil Service Commission's *Employee Bulletin* quotes psychologists discussing needs if people are to move along the line of success. "One of these needs is basic skills. These include: Skills with materials—so we don't fumble everything we handle. Skill with our body—so we are not awkward, have confidence, and move freely among our fellows. Skill in some field of work—to be expert in our job so we have confidence and walk with security in our field. Skill with tools of communication—so we are not bottled up but can express ourselves well."

Winter kills of cotton pest

Tests at the Oklahoma Cotton Research Station, at Chickasha, indicate that leaving cotton stalks standing through the winter and plowing them under in the spring may kill more than 99 percent of the pink bollworm larvae. Experimental fall cutting of stalks permitted survival of about 15 percent.

RSC elects Dr. Hagood

AT THE September 1954 annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society at Urbana, Ill., Margaret Jarman Hagood was elected president-elect of the Rural Sociological Society. Dr. Hagood, who is chief of the Farm Population and Rural Life Branch in the Agricultural Marketing Service, is also the 1954-55 President of the Population Association of America.

Dr. Hagood joined the Department in 1942, coming from a professorship at the University of North Carolina. In 1951 she was visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin. She is the author of many Department papers and of two books: "Statistics for Sociologists," which is widely used as a textbook; and "Mothers of the South." She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Advisory groups named

AN ADVISORY committee on farm and home equipment and buildings was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson October 13, following announcement on October 4 of a committee on food distribution research and marketing work. Half of the members of the equipment and buildings group are farmers and farmers' wives. State agricultural colleges, home and farm editors, and equipment and marketing firms are also represented in the group which will advise on research and educational programs to provide better homes and accessories. They will convene in Washington March 23-25, 1955. The Food Distribution Advisory Committee is composed largely of food retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and suppliers of food-packaging materials. They will meet March 23-25.

Carleton P. Barnes, Agricultural Research Service, is executive secretary to the farm and home group. Marshall J. Goss, also ARS, is executive secretary to the food distribution group.

Davidson heads world seed body

A new honor has come to Walter A. Davidson, chief of the Seed Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service. He is now president of the International Seed Testing Association. He succeeds Dr. H. A. Lafferty of Dublin, Ireland, who died in July. Mr. Davidson was named vice president at the Ninth Congress of the Association, at Dublin in 1953. He has been in charge of the Department's seed testing laboratories since 1938. He assisted in writing the Federal Seed Act of 1939, and directs enforcement of the act. More than 30 nations have joined in standardizing the testing of seeds and distinguishing their quality. The association was founded in Hamburg, Germany, in 1906.

Brief and choice

"Double-barrels" for bugs

Insects have in some cases developed remarkable resistance to DDT and other insecticides. Connecticut station suggests giving them a "double-barreled dose." It was found that a mixture of two kinds of killer, each of which attacked the bug population in a different way, gave excellent control against bean beetles and potato beetles; but cabbage worms kept right on.

New canning sweetpotato

A new canning variety of sweetpotato, the Sunnyside, has been developed at Beltsville, Md. According to Dr. Victor R. Boswell, of the Horticultural Crops Research Branch, it is a moist type, salmon to orange flesh, keeps well, good for baking, and makes an attractive pack canned. The Sunnyside was picked from seedlings first grown at Beltsville as a result of crossings and recrossings at the Louisiana station. It is resistant to cracking. Worth trying in Middle Atlantic States. A limited quantity of foundation stock may be had from Maryland Agricultural Station and a few growers listed at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

USDA ties with FAO

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, who is responsible for coordinating the participation of agencies of the Government in FAO, has designated Assistant Secretary Earl L. Butz, head of the Marketing and Foreign Agriculture group, to act for him as chairman of the FAO-Interagency Committee. Foreign Agricultural Service will have the responsibility of coordinating the participation of USDA in FAO. Clayton Whipple, Deputy Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, will act for the Assistant Secretary, and will serve as vice chairman of the committee.

Wild tomato species

USDA plant scientists have hopes of developing better disease-resistant tomatoes by using characters found in the wild plant "cousins" of our garden variety. USDA plant breeders report a collection of wild species made in South America 15 years ago has yielded species that are resistant to most of the chief tomato diseases. Thus far the breeders have produced varieties highly resistant against fusarium and verticillium wilts by using these wild species.

Sires of thousands

Procedures in doing artificial insemination of dairy cows in recent years have improved greatly, making possible a much larger ratio of cows bred to a single bull in that manner. In 1939 when the first associations doing such work were formed, the average number of cows bred to a bull was 228; this went to 318 in 1943, and in 1952 the number was 1,848. Certain of the most valuable sires have been used to breed from 10,000 to 15,000 cows a year.

Rid of birds by radio

R. P. Pfeifer, assistant agronomist at the Wyoming Experiment Station, has used a 100-watt public-address system with four horns to scare away destructive birds that were injuring grainseed heads in the test plots at the station. The blare from the loudspeakers frightened blackbirds and sparrows far better than shotgun blasts and poison bait. "This method may offer a new excuse for the airing of certain radio programs," the agronomist concludes.

Opposite trends

By means of labor-saving machinery and better farm know-how farmers are producing most crops with less labor than ever before—less labor per acre, less per bushel, per ton and per bale, says the *Agricultural Situation*. Greater efficiency, and the fewer man-hours now required on farms has brought about a decline in the number of workers on farms. From 1929 to 1953, the number of family and hired workers on farms decreased from approximately 12.8 million to 8.6 million. In the marketing of farm products the trend is in the other direction. During the same period, the number of workers engaged in marketing farm food products increased from roughly 3 million to nearly 5 million, largely because of the change from the "cracker-barrel era" to the day of the fancy package, when the farmer's product is no longer sold in the rough, but in the finished form, usually at higher prices.

Black gold or topsoil?

Wouldn't it be nice to have an oil pump pumping black gold on your farm? Well, here is a little history. In 1906 the writer was living in Oklahoma when one of the best oil fields opened up with a derrick on every 40 acres and maybe more. Thirty years later I was back over the same field and found derricks? I should say not! Where the derricks were, winter wheat was shoe-top high, with cattle and sheep grazing. The top 6 inches of soil was worth more than all the Black Gold underneath. So, conserve the top 6 to 8 inches—we have to eat. —John M. Sheltus, Supervisor, Nashua SCD, Mont., in *Terrain*, SCS.

Nebraskan promoted in FCA

Thomas A. Maxwell, Jr., was recently appointed Deputy Governor and Director of the Land Bank Service, FCA, Governor of FCA Robert B. Toottell announces. Mr. Maxwell is a Nebraskan, schooled at the university. He has had 7 years' experience as treasurer of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha.

Farmers' net income

Farm income in the first half of 1954 was slightly higher than in the second half of 1953, AMS' *Farm Income Situation* for September 10 reports. The general trend has been down since the latter part of 1951. Farmers' realized net income in the first half of 1954 was at an annual rate of \$12.5 billion. The figure for the last half of 1953 was at a rate of \$12.25 billion, but for the year as a whole it was \$12.8 billion. The AMS publication has inaugurated a new regular series of tables, showing quarterly estimates of farmers' gross realized income, production expenses, and realized net income.

Action showing good will

Kind thoughts from folks are always good

To cheer us on our way.

Good will is like substantial food;

It helps us day by day.

—C. H. EASTERLING, *vet. meat inspector*,
USDA, St. Paul, Minn.

Favor flavor or savor?

NO TRUEBORN son of Vermont would ever admit that any synthetic flavor of maple sirup could compare with the savor of the real farm product. But now into the picture comes the USDA's Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Wyndmoor, Pa., with the announcement that maple sirup with double-flavor potency can be made by a simple change in boiling. This is of course good news for the blenders, and a lot of sugar products can be further "sweetened up" by addition of some of the high-flavored sirup. Just what this will mean to the farmer in the maple-sirup States remains to be seen. He can go on making the standard sirup for sirup lovers, or he can turn out the super-flavored product, which should also command a good price from the makers of "superior maple blends." Vermont Extension Service envisions extensive new markets. A bronze plaque was received by the research team of Willits, Porter, and Buch of the Lab for discovering the process which "involves boiling the sirup at atmospheric pressure for approximately 2 hours at 252° F., cooling, and adding water to the thickened sirup equal to that lost by evaporation."

Fire-resistant houses

BUILDING OF houses that will resist fire and permit the saving of lives in case a fire does break out is described in the new Farmers' Bulletin 2070, "Fire-Resistant Construction on the Farm." The authors, Harry L. Garver and Edward G. Molander, senior engineers, ARS, have had long fire-research experience at Beltsville. They remind us that in an average year 3,500 people lose their lives in farm building fires, and that the property loss is about \$100 million.

The engineers recommend location of buildings at proper spaces apart—fire radiation alone may set fire to a building 150 feet away. Shops and storage sheds should be farther, protecting both the farm machinery and firefighting equipment. Prevailing winds and location of brush hazards should be taken into consideration. Wells, ponds, and waterlines should be convenient. Inside a building, fire stops are needed at many spots. Chimney connections, wiring, and fuel systems should be well planned and maintained. The bulletin carries 17 illustrations. Single copies may be obtained free from the Office of Information, USDA.

Genius of Dr. Harned

Of Dr. Robey W. Harned, USDA entomologist who retired in July after 23 years service in the Department and about 25 years previously teaching entomology at Mississippi State College, a colleague wrote:

"His particular genius as a teacher was in imparting his enthusiasm for entomology, then an obscure and neglected science, to his students, and encouraging them to continue in graduate study. After their graduation, he followed their careers with the greatest interest. The profession of entomology is full of successful entomologists who trace their choice of life work to 'Prof' Harned."

Minding peas and "q's"

Because cowpeas are not peas, yet are sometimes sold or quoted as "peas" some losses are caused to seedsmen and growers. And it is an apparent violation of the Federal Seed Act to advertise cowpea seed in interstate commerce and through the mails as peas, or to label cowpea seed for interstate shipment as "peas." Attention to this danger is called by the Grain Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service.

It seems that the common garden pea is "*Pisum sativum* var. *arvense*, whereas the cowpea, evidently from China, is *Vigna sinensis*. The blackeyes are just other varieties of cowpeas; or cowpeas are other varieties of blackeyes, as you wish. Cowpeas and blackeyes mix readily, Crowder peas and whippoorwills are just special varieties . . . you may get your blackeyes or cowpeas in almost any color from yellow to black, or speckled, as in whippoorwills.

Southern corn pest control

The sugarcane beetle and the southern cornstalk borer can be controlled to an important extent by cultural methods, according to two new publications of the Department. Leaflet 362, The Sugarcane Beetle on Corn in the Southern States, and Leaflet 363, The Southern Cornstalk Borer, both prepared by Agricultural Research Service, USDA, entomologists, describe the insects and practical ways of fighting them. Early fall plowing, seeding to other crops than rice or sugarcane, and the use of good seed corn plus fertilizer to start the crop ahead of the beetles are means recommended. Destruction of cornstalks after harvest is the key to practical control of the southern corn borer. Office of Information, USDA, has free copies of the two leaflets.

Extension reaches 8 million

More than 8 million families were assisted by some phase of extension work in 1953. The figure is 24 percent larger than for the previous year, according to the Extension Activities and Accomplishments report by Amelia S. Gordy, Extension Service analyst. Nearly 4 million were farm families, and more than that many were rural nonfarm families and urban families. The number of nonfarm families served by county agents increased surprisingly.

Tree-planting progress

Since 1924, the States have distributed enough trees with Federal cooperation under the Clarke-McNary Act to plant about 2½ million acres. Other forest plantings stimulated by this amount to at least another 1 million acres, or a total of almost 3½ million acres. At the present rate, says Forest Service, another 750,000 acres will be planted in the next 2 years. The total cost of growing the seedling trees for Clarke-McNary distribution in fiscal year 1952 was \$3,731,000. The Federal share was \$449,000; that of the States, \$2,094,000, and landowners' through purchase of seedlings put up the other \$1,188,000.

Conservation gets lift

LONG-RANGE research conservation policies were given a lift in a meeting of conservationists from all quarters of the country in Washington at the end of September. Assistant Secretary J. Earle Coke, general chairman, summed up results as most encouraging and productive in outlining future action. Four subcommittees and chairmen that presented important phases of conservation for discussion by the full group were the following:

Watershed Protection, Dr. R. G. Gustavson, president, Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington, D. C.; Water Use on Cropland, Director of Extension D. S. Weaver, North Carolina; Conservation, Improvement, and Profitable Use of Farmland, Kirk Fox, editor, Successful Farming, Des Moines, Iowa; and Use of Forest and Range Resources, H. T. McKnight, conservationist, Vienna, Va.

Dr. Howard Illinois dean

DR. LOUIS B. HOWARD, formerly chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry and a research chemist and food technologist who served in the Department from 1928 to 1948, became dean of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station of the University of Illinois recently. After leaving USDA, he headed the Department of Food Technology at Illinois and was associate director of the Station. Dr. Tom S. Hamilton succeeds him as associate director, and Prof. Harold W. Hannah becomes associate dean.

Dr. Howard is a comparatively young man among the deans, having been born in 1905 at Bloomington. He was graduated from Purdue University in 1927 and took his master's and doctor's degrees at the University of Chicago. He served at both the Northern and Western Regional Research Laboratories and was recognized as an outstanding food technologist. He was appointed a USDA research bureau chief in 1946.

Agricultural engineer retires

A recent retiree is Claude Kedzie Shedd, agricultural engineer, professor, and research worker in farm machinery, housing, grain drying, and soils. He held degrees from Nebraska and Iowa State colleges and taught at Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri colleges of agriculture. In 1930 he became engineer in charge of soil erosion installations at Bethany, Mo. Later he studied corn products. He is the author of USDA publications also journal articles on grain storage, and many agronomy and soils subjects. The Shedd family is living in Denver, Colo.

The spider bogeyman

THE SPIDER as a bogeyman and a danger to man has been greatly overrated. We have the assurance of an authority that most worries about these creatures may be worse than the bite. In a letter to M. P. Jones, extension entomologist, of the Federal Extension Service, Dr. Willis J. Gertsch of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, writes:

"I find that the spider you wanted to have identified is a male of *Agelenopsis naevia* Walck. This is one of our large grass spiders and is a quite harmless species so far as its venom is concerned. There are no records that its bite is at all dangerous. Whereas it is true that all spiders have fangs and most are capable of injecting venom under certain circumstances, almost all of them must be classified as being of no danger at all to man. This applies to tarantulas as well, which will bite and cause considerable mechanical injury to the tissues and will inject a voluminous venom which has very little effect on warm-blooded animals.

"In the United States only the species of *Latrodectus*, or black widow, has a venom which is potent enough to cause serious consequences in man or any warm-blooded animal. This venom is neurotoxic and under certain circumstances may even cause death. However, the importance of the black widow as a venomous creature has been exaggerated. There are few bites and few serious illnesses resulting from them."

Charlie Gapen writes in

BEFORE PEOPLE learned to condense tabular matter there was always a problem of getting a sheet big enough to hold the tables and a wall big enough to hang them on. Charles E. Gapen, former chief of Press Service, now a research writer for Agricultural Research Service, at Beltsville, Md., describes an early operation in this way:

The following is from *Rothamstead Experimental Station, Reminiscences, Tales and Anecdotes, 1872-1922*, by Edwin Grey, field superintendent:

I recollect also for the Chicago Exhibition, 1893, we had to make some enormous tables of figures. They were so large we could not find space enough at the laboratory to prepare them, and so a very large empty room was hired at the hat factory for the purpose. We had to use the floor to work on, the calico being stretched on the floor, and to wear carpet slippers whilst working. As these tables were finished they were hung up, figures read over and checked. These American ones were so large they had to be hung outside the laboratory and on the outside

walls of the Sample House to be read over. When all were completed they were rolled round a long pole, covered and bound over, and so despatched. I used to wonder what this exceedingly wide calico or white union was used for, and found that this material is used for the painting of the scenery at theaters.

Readers' reminders

Farm realty tax trends

Taxes on farm real estate increased about 5.4 percent last year and averaged about \$1 per \$100 of valuation, according to a study by Agricultural Research Service. The tax bill per acre has risen sharply since 1950, and the index for taxes in 1953, compared with the base period of 1909-13, was 391. There is great variation between States, partly because schools are supported in some cases from State revenues, and in others largely from local taxes. Farm real estate taxes were generally the highest since 1941. The increase over 1953 was much higher in the West North Central and the Mountain States. New England had the highest average tax per acre (\$1.91), and the West South Central States the lowest (\$0.52). Nebraska had the highest increase over 1952 (30 percent) and Maryland the lowest (2.5 percent). A leaflet, *Taxes Levied on Farm Real Estate* in 1953, ARS 43-1, may be had by writing to Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Washington, D. C.

Planting southern pines

A complete summary of all available information on planting pines in the South, compiled by Philip C. Wakeley, of the Forest Service's Southern Experiment Station, has come from the press. The South has planted a great deal since World War I but needs to plant about 13 million acres more to keep up the timber supply and protect the soil. The book *Planting Southern Pines* may be had from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for \$2.75.

Tung residues

Expanded commercial uses are needed now in the rapidly growing tung oil industry, according to ARS. R. L. Holmes and R. S. McKinney of the U. S. Tung Oil Laboratory at Bogalusa, La., have analyzed hulls and press cake in each of the 14 tung mills operating throughout the country. This study has been put into bulletin form, listed as AIC-357, June 1953. Copies can be had from the above laboratory.

More about the Weather

The Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce, issued the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* in a new format October 19. The changes in the 40-year-old publication were made to "make the publication more useful to farmers and farm news editors." Information will be more timely, the new 30-day outlook will be reported, and the effects of the past weather on major crops and the future outlook for rainfall and temperatures will be given. The information is collected from each State by the USDA and the Weather Bureau and is teletyped to Washington Monday evenings for release at noon (EST) on Tuesdays. Domestic subscription \$3 a year, checks payable to the Treasurer of the United States, mailed to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Let's grow up, and not burn up.
Make every week a fire prevention week.

Thoughts in season

THE ANCIENTS, most of whom tilled the soil, held agriculture in high regard. They naturally began their year with the spring, with March as the first month. November was the ninth month, hence its smooth classical name. But people of the Northern Hemisphere knew nothing about the life and seasons of the Southern Hemisphere, and it is perhaps just as well that most of the world by broad compromise now reckons the months as we do, with November set in eleventh place.

We still expect leaves to keep falling, the frost to whiten the fields, the winds to blow cold in November. There may be snow, and a sprinkling of Indian Summer days. Some transplanting is to be done in the garden, some banking of plants against a coming freeze, and protection of water pipes. The eleventh month is the eleventh hour for a lot of early-winter chores and for getting heavier clothing.

Corn, if you still "gather" it, snaps well; stock comes in from the pasture to be fed; wild animals put on deep fur. Tramping and hunting appeal once more. November is the month of pumpkin pies and cider; and cold apple pie tastes mighty good as you sit on the stump of a newly felled tree for lunch.

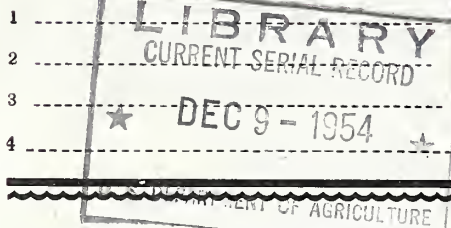
Elections arrive and pass. College football reaches its climax and study takes on new life. The home is better appreciated as a place to live in, sociability is intensified, and the family close-knit by the fireside. Fuel bills have not yet begun to hurt nor income payments to dampen our thoughts. There are more quiet hours for serious reading.

Best of all in the American tradition is the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Turkey has been brought within reach of nearly every family, and the mellow months of autumn have brought in a harvest of other foods. There is joy and plenty and true thanksgiving. And people will soon start counting the days till Christmas.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 17, 1954

Sprucing up publications

EDITORS, WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS in the Department are still turning over new ideas on typography and design presented by Otto Forkert, publications counselor, of Chicago, at meetings held in Washington, October 25-26. He spoke at a luncheon of the Federal Editors Association, and at a special meeting of editors of USDA periodicals, and also a meeting for editors and writers of Department bulletins.

Mr. Forkert, who is president of Forkert & Associates, graphic arts consultants, passed out criticisms in rapid-fire appraisals of all sorts of departmental publications. Some long-time favorites were shown to fall short of the highest efficiency and best style in one way or another. And there was much to be praised. From the number of notes taken by editors, it would not be surprising to find further rapid improvement in the appearance of bulletins and periodicals. The recent pictorial number of USDA (October 6) received favorable comment, along with some pointers on getting the most out of type now in use.

The speaker stressed the need for better publications to compete with television and other visual aids now rapidly giving new direction to information work. The changes suggested by Mr. Forkert call for new literature based on established principles of art and design, plus the impact of the new visuals.

Following the review meetings, Mr. Forkert appeared before the Publications Review Committee and representatives of the various agencies of the Department, and gave a summary of his findings on USDA publications. Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts presided at this meeting.

Mr. Forkert's many-sided ability in handling publications came to the attention of the American Agricultural College Editors at the AAACE convention last summer. Arrangements for his appearance in Washington were made in

cooperation with the National Project in Agricultural Communications (Kellogg Foundation, East Lansing, Mich.), by Lyle Webster, Director of Information, Harry P. Mileham, Chief of Publications, and the Publications Review Committee.

Mr. Forkert illustrated some of his ideas with the new Oregon State College manual "You Can Write and Edit Effective Agricultural Publications." This attractive booklet grew out of studies originating in the agricultural economics writing short course at Corvallis last February, in which course Mr. Forkert participated. The booklet shows Stanley Andrews, Amy Cowing, Mr. Forkert, and representatives of Oregon State College and others in action, teaching the arts of communications. It is designed throughout to illustrate the principles of using modern layout and topography in getting and holding attention of the reader. The book may be had from the National Project in Agricultural Communications, Wells Hall, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. Single copies \$1.

Cotton farmers vote Dec. 14

THE NATIONAL UPLAND COTTON marketing quota referendum will be held December 14. At least two-thirds of the cotton farmers voting in the referendum must approve marketing quotas before they may be made effective. A similar referendum will be held for quotas of the 1955 crop of long staple cotton on the same date. A national marketing quota of 10 million bales and an acreage allotment of 18,113,208 acres for the 1955 crop of cotton were proclaimed by Secretary of Agriculture Benson October 14. If growers approve quotas in the referendum, price supports on the 1955 upland cotton crop will be made available to eligible growers at a level between 82½ and 90 percent of parity.

CSS Operation Hurricane

WALTER C. BERGER, Associate Administrator of Commodity Stabilization Service, went home like the thousands of other USDA employees excused before the hurricane on Friday, October 22, only to find weak telephone calls awaiting him that most of the 112 grain ships anchored in the James River near Norfolk, Va., had broken loose from their moorings.

Little could be done from this distance, but many members of CSS were in for a busy weekend. Early Saturday morning a car carrying Roland Ballou of the Deputy Administrator's staff, three Maritime officers from Washington and a grain inspector from Baltimore, went down to Norfolk. Maritime and Department personnel soon got the stray ships tied up and gave emergency repairs to hatches, tarpaulins, and electric cables. Fortunately, the grain suffered no damage. The heavy rain preceded the heaviest winds, and at the time the hatches blew off the rain stopped.

While the storm was arriving on Friday, an appeal from the Republic of Haiti for assistance in feeding thousands who had lost their homes and were threatened with starvation in the wake of the same Hurricane Hazel reached Foreign Operations Administration and the USDA in Washington. Most of the wires were down, and it was accordingly on Saturday that most of the messages got through. CSS personnel spared no pains in contacting the principal ports for foods to be available immediately for shipment. Southern ports had corn, but no meal. Finally 187 hundred-pound sacks were found in Kansas City. The owner traded it to the Department for CCC stored corn. Meal was put aboard planes for FOA and was landed in Haiti Sunday morning. Department-owned pinto beans were sent from Denver, Colo., 10 tons of dried skim milk were sent from Richmond, Va., and cottonseed oil from Boston, Mass. By Sunday morning 87 tons of these foods had reached Haiti, and much more was on its way to meet the emergency.

Sweden buying more from U. S.

The Swedish Government on October 1 removed import licensing requirements from a large number of commodities imported from the dollar area, says Foreign Agricultural Service. The list includes such important agricultural commodities as cotton, rice, dried fruits including raisins and prunes, fruit juices, hides and skins, as well as canned fruits and berries, canned vegetables and soups, and packaged cereal foods.

Dr. J. T. Jardine dies

DEATH CLAIMED James T. (Jim) Jardine, scientist and former director of research of USDA, October 24. Since he retired in 1946, he had lived in Washington.

Dr. Jardine, born in Cherry Creek, Idaho, took his degree at Utah Agricultural College in 1905 and had later work at the University of Chicago. He held honorary degrees from Utah, Kansas, and Clemson Agricultural Colleges. He was oriented from the first toward an active career in scientific agriculture, and he joined the Forest Service under Gifford Pinchot in 1907. A student of ecology and range management, he undertook exhaustive studies of the succession of grasses and other plants on the forest ranges. Forest Service specialists credit Jardine with a big part in the development of range management on National Forest lands. Many of his findings are printed in Department publications.

On the Wallowa National Forest, in Oregon, Jardine carried on experiments and supplied the first statistics on the benefits of good management of grazing lands. He also introduced the "bedding-out," or open-herding, system that is now general practice for handling sheep. He initiated range reconnaissance and mapping areas by vegetative types. The book "Range Management on the National Forests," Department Bulletin 790, by Jardine, and Anderson is considered a classic in its field. Dr. Jardine became chief of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station in 1920, and in 1931 was named chief of the USDA Office of Experiment Stations.

In addition to his duties as chief of the OES, Dr. Jardine was for about 6 years Director of Research for the Department. It was while he served in this capacity that he represented the Secretary in setting up the four Regional Research Laboratories at Albany, Calif.; Peoria, Ill.; New Orleans, La.; and Philadelphia, Pa. The scientific research in these four laboratories in four major geographic sections of the country is focused on seeking new outlets for surplus farm products.

Dr. Jardine is reported to have said that one of the real satisfactions achieved in his lifetime grew out of efforts that contributed to establishment of these laboratories. He also took the lead in setting up the nine Bankhead-Jones regional laboratories following passage of the act in 1935. Dr. Jardine was a brother of William M. Jardine, of

San Antonio, Tex., who was Secretary of Agriculture in the Coolidge administration.

Human Nutrition Research

DIVISION OF the old Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics into the Human Nutrition Research Branch and the Home Economics Research Branch has been completed. Formal approval of the organization of the Human Nutrition Research Branch of the Agricultural Research Administration was announced by Administrator B. T. Shaw late in September. Both branches are under the general supervision of Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling, Director of Human Nutrition and Home Economics Research. Nutrition studies are now brought together in one branch composed of the following sections: Food Composition, Food Quality and Use, Nutritional Biochemistry, Diet Appraisal, and Technical Research Services-Biological Sciences, with laboratories at Beltsville, Md., and headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Chief of the Human Nutrition Research Branch is Dr. Callie Mae Coons, widely known food economist. She holds degrees from Abilene (Texas) Christian College, and the University of Colorado, with a Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of Chicago. In 1942 Dr. Coons became senior food economist, and since July 1945 she served as Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. The major part of Dr. Coons' research activities has been in the field of human metabolism, where she is best known for her work on nutritional requirements during pregnancy. In 1951 she was one of the United States delegates to the Combined Conference on Administrative and Scientific Aspects of Food in Civil Defense which was held in London. She is a member of a number of research and professional organizations, and a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science and of the American Public Health Association.

W. T. McKeown retires

William T. McKeown retired as Deputy Director of Finance and Accounts, FCA, September 30. Mr. McKeown has been closely identified with the financing and investment programs of the cooperative credit system supervised by the Farm Credit Administration. These programs involved the purchase and sale of about \$1.8 billion securities in the market last year for the 12 Federal land banks, 12 Federal intermediate credit banks, 13 banks for cooperatives, and 12 production credit corporations. Mr. McKeown entered Government service in 1918 and in 1929 joined the Federal Farm Loan Bureau.

Splitting the dollar

The farmer gets 69 cents of the dollar the consumer pays for his poultry and eggs, 63 cents of the consumer's dollar spent for meat, 49 cents for dairy products, 30 cents for fruits and vegetables, and only 22 cents for grain products. These figures, based on Agricultural Marketing Service studies for 1953 are given with other interesting data in USDA Leaflet 123, The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Food Dollar. For free single copy, write to Office of Information U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

"Raining" fertilizers

Taking a leaf from the farmers' book of New Zealand, some agriculturalists are suggesting that American pastures on land too rough for tractors be fertilized from the air. Planes are already widely used in USA for seeding and spraying.

GS serves 100,000

MORE THAN 100,000 Federal employees have enrolled in the Graduate School since its founding in 1921. Its teachers and committeemen have found in the institution ways to contribute to the improvement of the Federal service. Persons not employed by the Government are admitted to Graduate School classes as facilities permit.

The Graduate School receives no public funds. The Department of Agriculture supplies the Graduate School with office space and utilities and allows the use of conference rooms and large offices as evening classrooms. All other expenses of the Graduate School, including salaries, are met from tuition fees.

Iceland girl studies light

Along with fish, pastures, turnips, and potatoes, Iceland, a deep-heated volcanic island, has a most valuable asset in its many hot springs and natural jets of steam. These are sources of heat for public buildings, homes and greenhouses. This last item, the greenhouses, explains the presence of Miss Ida Bjornsson, who is studying plant-light problems at the University of Maryland on a scholarship provided by the American Association of Commercial Gladiolus Growers and is doing collaboration work at the Plant Industry Station under the supervision of Dr. H. A. Borthwick and Dr. S. L. Emsweller.

Says Miss Bjornsson: "In Iceland greenhouse heating has been provided for by nature. There is plenty of light in summer, but it is a scarce item the rest of the year. The proper use of light for the dark days is an important problem and we are trying to learn the most modern ways of using it."

Farm outlook good

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE, October 25-29, found much that is encouraging in the farm situation and trends of the American economy. The wheat situation, between acreage allotments and marketing quotas, has improved to the extent that the prospective supply may not exceed that of last year and may be but slightly above the 1947-52 average. For the first time in 4 years the cotton carryover will be less than for the preceding year. Feed grains and concentrates will increase about 4 percent over 1954, but large areas have a deficit, and the emergency feed program will extend aid to farmers in the drought area.

Meat supplies will be ample. All poultry products are at high records, prices are low, and the prospects for the next year or two will depend largely on the number of pullets saved next spring. Dairy production and prices are expected to be about the same as for 1954. Costs may be lower. Consumer demand for fresh fruits and vegetables is expected to be strong. Tobacco prospects are good, though foreign competition is increasing.

Farm finances are in good shape. Assets total about \$159.8 billion, about 4 percent less than last year. The decrease is laid almost entirely to declines in prices of livestock and a decrease in the values of real estate last spring.

The Outlook Conferences, of which this was the 32d, are meetings of the representatives of the State Extension Services and Washington personnel of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is represented by four agencies: Agricultural Marketing Service, Agricultural Research Administration, Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Federal Extension Service. More than 20 leaders in these fields gave formal reports or speeches on their specialties. Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse and Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs W. Randolph Burgess gave addresses before the opening session. Administrator Clarence M. Ferguson of the Federal Extension Service opened the conference.

Poultry dilemma

The numbers of hens and pullets on farms run a few percent higher than they did last year. What is bothering the poultrymen just as much is the higher rate of egg-laying. Eight percent more layers in September laid 10 percent more eggs than a year earlier, and 28 percent above average. Looks like farmers and the rest of us may have to eat more eggs—or more chickens.

USDA: November 17, 1954

Time-tested good advice

Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot
That it do singe yourself.

—Shakespeare

Todd, defense adviser

M. R. CLARKSON, Acting Administrator of Agricultural Research Service, has announced the appointment of Frank A. Todd as Assistant to the Administrator for Emergency Programs. Dr. Todd is on loan to ARS from the U. S. Public Health Service. He comes from the Federal Civil Defense Administration, where he served as consultant on biological warfare defense and, in cooperation with the Department and other Federal Agencies, developed a program of Civil Defense designed to protect livestock of the U. S. against possible biological warfare attack. He has specific responsibility for agricultural research relationships to national defense, including protection, control, and advisory functions of ARS important to the safety of crops and livestock. He will represent the Administrator with Agricultural Marketing Service, Forest Service, and other Department agencies responsible for national defense programs.

More power

GROUPS OF northeastern and southwestern States will participate in the program of the Inter-Industry Farm Electric Utilization Council to stimulate greater and more productive use of electricity on the farm and in the farm home. Northeastern States gave general approval of the Council's plans at a conference in Columbus, Ohio, October 12, REA reports. About 400 delegates to the meeting, representing electric co-operatives, power companies, manufacturers of electric farm equipment and appliances, electric wiring contractors, farm and educational groups and the Extension Service. Southwestern States met October 15 at Fort Worth, Tex., with 450 persons present. The final meeting of five was held at Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 20.

The Council is an organization of power suppliers and related industries. It has called the meetings to give details of its industrywide approach to developing the farm electric market and working out plans for action at the State level.

Brief and Choice

Fans for stored grain

Commodity Credit Corporation grain is going to be kept as dry and sound as possible. The Department recently bought 241 fan-and-motor assemblies to be used in aerating grain, principally wheat and corn, stored in large flat-type structures. They will be used chiefly in wheat-growing States of the Great Plains.

More milk for troopers

Good news. On Friday, October 15, the Department of Defense announced that as the result of an agreement between the Army Quartermaster Corps and the Department of Agriculture, the military service is being authorized to increase the issue of fluid milk for troop feeding and hospital messes in continental United States by ½ pint per day.

Commodity Credit Corporation funds will be used for a substantial part (\$4.10 per hundredweight) of the cost, because the increase in Armed Forces milk consumption will divert fluid milk from the manufacture of surplus dairy products that otherwise would be purchased by CCC. This arrangement is under the Agricultural Act of 1954.

Stelemaster strawberry

Stelemaster, the first commercial strawberry variety resistant to all races of red stele disease in the Eastern United States, has been released to growers of the Maryland Eastern Shore area by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. A limited number of plants will be available for 1955 planting from nurserymen. Neither the USDA nor the Maryland Station has plants for distribution.

Corn borer eats peppers!

The European corn borer is causing rather severe damage to peppers in Marshall County, Ala. This is believed to be the first record of economic damage from this insect in Alabama, although it is known to occur in some northern counties.

Broccoli to the fore

A recently revised Farmers' Bulletin on Cauliflower and Broccoli (Varieties and Culture) supersedes one put out 10 years ago. It reflects results of recent efforts of plant breeders, chemists, pathologists, entomologists, and others to improve the vegetables. Broccoli is adapted to freezing and easier to grow than cauliflower. It has become a favorite with home gardeners. A free copy of this publication (F. B. 1957) may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Plowing match draws crowds

As the pulling match, with horses straining under inhuman loads, seems about to pass into the sunset, the plowing match draws larger crowds. A recent issue of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record (Ontario, Canada) carried 22 pages all directly concerned with plowing and featuring the International Plowing Match held at Breslau in October.

Brings home the plaque

Lorenzo B. Mann, Farmer Cooperative Service, went to the annual meeting of the National Frozen Food Locker Institute, at St. Louis, recently, and brought home the plaque for "outstanding leadership and meritorious service" to the industry. Mann is head of the Frozen Food Locker Branch, FCS. For the time, the beautiful plaque hangs in the office of Administrator Joseph G. Knapp.

Ike visits smokejumpers

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER was made an honorary smokejumper when he dedicated the Forest Service's new aerial fire depot at Missoula, Mont., September 22. At the depot which will house the smokejumpers—those fire fighters of the Forest Service who parachute to fires in inaccessible parts of the West—the President said he had long wanted to "join in a salute to the Forest Service, particularly the smokejumpers. I first heard of them when I was still in the Army. The Forest Service helped train parachute units of the armed forces."

Fred Bauer, smokejumper foreman, presented the scroll making President Eisenhower an honorary member of his group. At the same time he presented a white smokejumper helmet, which the president tried on at the insistence of the photographers, and Smokey Bear T-shirts for the President's grandchildren.

The new depot which has been under construction for 2 years includes a dormitory, a parachute storage loft, a warehouse, a residence for the smokejumper foreman, equipment for training, and a hangar. Prior to the President's speech, Chief of the Forest Service Richard E. McArdle gave a history of the smokejumping project.

A. G. McCall, conservationist

Dr. Arthur G. McCall, former chief of soil investigations of the Department and identified with soils studies for nearly half a century, died October 19 at the age of 79. A graduate of Ohio State University, Dr. McCall taught agronomy there for 12 years, received a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, was professor of geology and soils at the University of Maryland for 11 years, and became chief of soils investigations of USDA in 1927. He also served with Soil Conservation Service from 1936 until his retirement in 1944. He was past president of the American Society of Agronomy and member of other science groups. After World War I he established an American university for servicemen in Europe. He was the author of a number of soil conservation handbooks in use by agricultural technicians.

The facts about citrus

In the 1953-54 crop season, 75 percent of the total orange tonnage in the United States was grown in Florida, 23 percent in California, 0.8 percent in Arizona, 0.7 percent in Texas, and 0.1 percent in Louisiana, the Crop Reporting Board, AMS, estimates. Percentages of total grapefruit production last season were: Florida, 88 percent; California, 4 percent; Arizona, 5 percent; and Texas, 3 percent. Practically all United States tangerines are produced in Florida and practically all the lemons in California. In 1953-54, oranges and tangerines accounted for 69 percent of all citrus tonnage, compared with 73 percent in 1952-53. Processing accounted for 54 percent of the total sales of citrus last season.

Wool futures under CEA

Wool futures trading came under CEA regulation effective October 27. This is also the date when designation of the Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange as a contract market for wool becomes effective. The application of the exchange for designation under the act was approved by the Secretary of Agriculture on October 14. Wool was added to the commodities covered by the act by a provision of the National Wool Act of 1954. In marketing activities, the volume of trading in the leading grains was down in September, but activities in cotton futures was the largest in 17 months.

Longsdorf advising OI

Lisle L. Longsdorf, of Kansas State College of Agriculture, is paying another visit to Washington as an editor seeking ways and means of strengthening relations between State and Federal agricultural information agencies. He has been assigned as a consultant in Director of Information Lyle Webster's office for making studies and advising on USDA informational services to the land-grant colleges.

Take care what you pick up

Black widow spiders are numerous in some sections of southern Indiana this year, according to the Cooperative Insect Report, ARS. Their bite can be dangerous.

Smith new aide to Benson

MILAN D. SMITH, producer, food processor, and marketer, of Pendleton, Oreg., will succeed Lorenzo N. Hoopes as Executive Assistant to the Secretary about December 1. His appointment was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson November 1. Mr. Smith's association with farming and marketing activities has extended over 15 years. His management experience was praised by Secretary Benson as fitting him for a highly complex administrative position. Mr. Smith, with a brother, owns and operates a 640-acre vegetable farm near Burley, Idaho. And since 1941 he has been general manager of the Smith Canning and Freezing Company of Oregon, at Pendleton, and of Smith Frozen Foods, of Oregon and Idaho.

His civic connections are numerous, including membership in the National Council of Boy Scouts. He was named First Junior Citizen of Oregon for 1950, and he has been a director of the famous Pendleton Round-up. He studied business administration at the University of Utah.

Lorenzo Hoopes, who came to USDA from the field of business, will soon return to take an executive position with the Safeway Stores, in Oakland, Calif. "Mr. Hoopes has performed a difficult top-level staff job in the Department with effectiveness and efficiency that has been a distinct service to agriculture," said Secretary Benson.

Thoughts in season

ONE DAY in late October a few of us went to Beltsville to visit some of our scientific friends and meet with the editors of ARS. It will be remembered by some of us as the Day of the Big Apple, for late in the afternoon our hosts produced an oversized basket of jumbo Golden Delicious, none of them of pocket-size.

These king-size fruits had been picked only that morning, and they were everything that their name implies—golden and delicious. When the fruits were small as marbles the sturdy apple tree had been sprayed with a new thinning compound. The treatment left just enough apples on the tree to permit them to grow to maximum size and perfection. Beltsville scientists have given much attention to the problems of growth control and brought in sight the end of costly hand thinning of fruit. This is only one of a thousand new developments in horticulture and agriculture accomplished here. The scientists' apples left a good taste in the mouth, as did the discussions of progress in agricultural research at Beltsville.

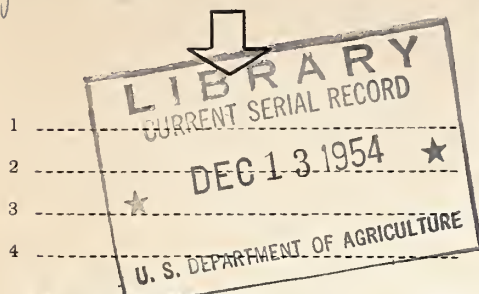
Residents of any quarter of the United States can easily view a well-managed farm. Washington employees of USDA live within a dozen miles of the great Beltsville Research Center, yet numbers of them have never seen it. There are, to be sure, many who never miss an opportunity to drive out on a weekend through the vast 11,000-acre farm to observe the herds along the fences and study the experimental crops in the fields.

The orchards among the Maryland hills are seldom in sight. It will not be strange if like many experimental studies, they go on year after year almost unnoticed, while scientists unobtrusively roll back new horizons of agriculture. Rich and varied are the fruits of research.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 1, 1954

New Assistant Secretary

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Ervin L. Peterson, appointed by President Eisenhower in October, took up his duties in the Department November 15. He has been director of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture since 1943. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson said that Mr. Peterson's experi-



Assistant Secretary Ervin L. Peterson

ence qualifies him outstandingly for heading up the USDA work in the Federal-States Relations field. Besides his official position in Oregon, he has headed the National Association of Secretaries, Commissioners, and Directors of Agriculture, and has been active in dairy and farming organizations. He succeeds J. Earl Coke, who recently resigned to return to his position as director of the Agricultural Extension Service in California. Secretary Benson stated that Mr. Coke has made an outstanding contribution to American agriculture as Assistant Secretary and as chairman of the Department Committee on Reorganization and other groups.

Assistant Secretary Peterson was born at North Bend, Oreg., where he actively farmed before attending the University of California in Los Angeles, in 1926-29.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Farmers Home Administration: Eileen M. Gross, payroll supervisor, St. Louis, Mo.; Velma N. Lumpkins, clerk-typist, Emporia, Kans.

Forest Service: S. Blair Hutchinson, forest economist, Ogden, Utah; Mark M. Johannessen, forester, Boise, Idaho; Charlie L. Shope, forestry aid (research), Franklin, N. C.; Clarence O. Smith, fire control aid, Salmon, Idaho; Thomas E. Smith, fire control aid (dispatcher), Hamilton, Mont.; James O. Stewart, forester, Price, Utah; Adolph K. Wogensen, forester, Jackson, Wyo.

Office of the Secretary: Elizabeth C. Lacava, secretary (stenographer), Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: Ephriam T. Brown, supervisory engineering aid, Walnut Creek, Calif.; Edith Johnson, area clerk, Saginaw, Mich.

Who are your nominees?

Nominations for honor awards to be given May 15 are being received by the Office of Personnel. Director MacHenry Schafer urges early filing, for there are many arrangements to complete by the closing date, February 15. Directions are given in paragraph 2438 of Chapter 62, Title 8 of Administrative Regulations. Accuracy and conciseness are essential to processing nominations approved by the Honor Awards Committees. Citations are limited to 30 words, and it takes a lot of hard writing to make them easy to read.

The culprit nematode

Two tobacco plant pathologists, Q. L. Holderman of the South Carolina Experiment Station and T. W. Graham, of USDA, have found that sting nematodes pierce cotton rootlets and open the door thereby for fusarium wilt even on varieties normally resistant to the disease. Dr. G. Steiner of the Division of Nematology, discovered and named this pest several years ago. Now the idea is to work on a combination of resistance breeding that will add tolerance to the nematode along with good resistance to fusarium wilt.

Bill of Rights Day

December 15, when the next USDA is to be issued, is Bill of Rights Day, on the calendar of events. The Founding Fathers evidently knew it would be a Christmas gift to all of us, and were mailing on time.

FHA conservation loans

INDIVIDUAL FARMERS and nonprofit associations that serve farmer members in matters related to soil and water conservation may obtain soil and water conservation loans from the Farmers Home Administration. The new loan program is the result of recent legislation which extended the water facilities loan program, formerly confined to 17 Western States, to the entire country; placed the loan limit to individuals at \$25,000 and that to associations at \$250,000; expanded the program to include loans for soil conservation measures; and provided for loan funds to be advanced by private lenders, such as banks and insurance companies, with the loans fully insured by the Farmers Home Administration.

The loans are made only to applicants unable to obtain the necessary credit through usual credit channels at reasonable rates and terms. A loan may be insured to pay costs of materials, equipment, and services directly related to soil conservation; water development, conservation, and use; and drainage of farm land. These include such improvements as construction and repair of terraces, dikes, and ponds, establishment and improvement of permanent pastures, basic application of lime and fertilizer, tree planting, well drilling, land leveling, ditching, and the purchase of pumps, sprinkler systems and other irrigation equipment.

Applications are received by the county Farmers Home Administration supervisor who refers them to his 3-member local committee. No loan is made or insured unless the committee certifies that the applicant is eligible and will likely succeed. The Farmers Home Administration takes care of loan making, appraisals, servicing, and collections. Proposed improvements must be in line with recommendations made by technicians of the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service.

Loan repayment schedules will be for the shortest time consistent with the borrower's ability to repay, but no repayment schedule will be for longer than the useful life of the improvement or the security, whichever is less, nor for more than 20 years. Association loans will be handled on the same basis, but in exceptional cases can be amortized over periods up to 40 years.

I am a man and nothing human is foreign to my interest.

—TERENCE

Crop science advances

THESE TIMES of multiple and multifarious agricultural research call for frequent summaries to make it possible to understand the advances that have been made and that are about to occur in farming. One of the latest of these summaries was made this fall by Dr. F. P. Cullinan, Chief of the ARS Horticultural Crops Research Branch.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, he summarized recent new findings and mentioned a number of probable early developments. Dr. Cullinan's list of top-notch developments in horticultural research includes these:

That growth and behavior of many plants can be regulated by the application of small amounts of hormone-like chemicals, a discovery that in 15 years has had wide ramifications of enormous economic importance—sprays of low-concentration solutions of chemicals that prevent the falling off of leaves and fruits; sprays that promote fruit-set without pollination; solutions that dwarf plants; those that inhibit buds, as sprouts on stored potato tubers; those that increase growth of plants and hasten ripening of fruits; sprays that are specific and effect only certain kinds of plants, some that in weak solution will do desirable things and in stronger concentration will injure or kill plants.

He said that success in the past 10 years with chemical weedkillers, applied directly or before emergence of the planted crops, has stimulated search for other chemicals and that each year hundreds of compounds are tested.

Speaking on the horticultural angle of the highly potent antibiotics that plants can absorb through leaves and stems and send about to other parts, Dr. Cullinan said that after a few years they are proving highly useful in the control of bacterial diseases of some vegetables and fruit trees, just as they have been proving good in treating diseases of animals and humans. Before this important development, effective controls for most of these diseases were unknown. (He called attention to the fact that there are still no cures for plants having virus diseases.)

Dr. Cullinan pointed to the great time requirement in bringing out new basic facts, and contrasted with this the shorter time usually required to make practical applications of these facts. Examples given are: The rapid expansion in use of growth-regulating chemicals after the early discoveries of a few effects; the many practical uses

for controlled lighting after discovery of the effect of length of day on blossoming and fruiting of plants; and the development of many hybrid onions in recent years after the discovery of a male-sterile onion about 30 years ago.

Among problems Dr. Cullinan considers of present great importance is that of soil-borne diseases, nematode diseases, for example, which "may require the cooperation of horticulturists, plant pathologists, nematologists, and soil microbiologists" for their solution.

Farmers give college a lift

WHEN YUMA COUNTY, Ariz., farmers heard that the University had been able to buy the land for a long-desired experimental farm, but had no funds for its development, the community farmers pitched in and prepared 80 acres for irrigation, thereby putting the needed experimental studies a whole year ahead. The *Yuma County Farmer* tells the story:

They got together and in effect, said, "We'll level the land ourselves." On October 18 and 19 a group of 100 farmers with 45 tractors moved about 25,000 cubic yards of earth an average of 1,000 feet. Work, equipment, gas and oil, money, and time were volunteered by farmers and dealers. Using latest models of tractors, bulldozers, and other earth-moving equipment, this cooperative effort saved the experiment station about \$6,000.

"We are today irrigating the land," Director Eckert writes to Dr. R. W. Trullinger, Assistant Administrator, Office of Experiment Stations (ARS), "that a week ago was not sufficiently level for good crop production, and certainly not for research purposes. The occasion was a thrilling one for those of us on the Station staff, and certainly will stimulate all of us to do the very best we can to justify the faith which Arizona farmers have in modern agricultural research."

Beans not limited

Dry edible beans have been removed from the list of crops earlier named for acreage limitation in 1955 in connection with planting of acres diverted from other crops. Unfavorable weather conditions led to the decision by Secretary Benson not to restrict the planting of this food crop.

"A Century of Entomology"

Ralph W. Sherman, entomologist, Plant Quarantine Branch, ARS, has an article "A Century of Entomology," in the September 3 issue of *Science* magazine. It lists in some detail the achievements of scientists and officials of the USDA and other public agencies in the control of insects.

Dr. Sand to genetics post

Dr. Seaward Sand has joined the staff of the genetics department of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Sand will conduct tobacco breeding studies and will work closely with the staff of the Station's Tobacco Laboratory at Windsor. His headquarters will be in New Haven.

Part of his work will be breeding for "shadeless" Shade strains of tobacco. Connecticut Valley Shade tobacco growers are interested in finding strains which would be of high enough quality for cigar wrappers, but which would not have to be grown under shade cloth, resulting in substantial savings in labor and materials. He will also devote time to breeding to produce disease-resistant strains. Dr. Sand's this year received his Ph. D. degree in genetics from Cornell University, where his work showed that increases or decreases in temperature influenced the rate of mutations.

On farmer's decisions

The Wisconsin Experiment Station is making a study of farmers' decisions in adopting new practices. One county has already been covered both before and after the experimental extension program was carried out, and the results published by Dr. E. A. Wilkening, rural sociologist, in Wisconsin Experiment Station Research Bulletin 183. Dr. Wilkening previously made similar studies in North Carolina. The bulletin gives more than a hint of what to expect in farmer acceptance when planning and carrying out educational programs in the country.

Pattern for retirement

THE OCTOBER 5 issue of the *Northwestern Miller* discusses editorially the retirement of scientific research workers. It cites as an example the personal solution made by Dr. C. H. Bailey, who retired December 31, 1952, as Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota. Dr. Bailey recently returned to the General Mills Research Laboratories where he once worked as a young chemist, to continue scientific studies which he had to give up during his administrative career.

"Dr. Bailey's connection with the University," says the editorial, "was the culmination of a distinguished career as research chemist, educator, and author. . . . When the official retirement age of the University confronted him, Dr. Bailey found that he still had a headful of questions about flour and dough—the ways they act, and why—and it is at this point that his philosophy of retirement begins to take effect. The finding of answers to the headful of questions takes on the aspect of recreation."

Directors will be happy to learn that Dr. Bailey finds himself "free to test some of these ideas that have been turning over in my mind for years." Like many scientists before him, he gives living proof that curiosity just isn't something that can be retired.

Smith new aide to Benson

MILAN D. SMITH, producer, food processor, and marketer, of Pendleton, Oreg., will succeed Lorenzo N. Hoopes as Executive Assistant to the Secretary about December 15. His appointment was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson November 1. Mr. Smith's association with farming and marketing activities has extended over the last 15 years. His management experience was praised by Secretary Benson as fitting him for a highly complex administrative position. Mr. Smith, with a brother, owns and operates a 640-acre vegetable farm near Burley, Idaho. Since 1941 he has been general manager of the Smith Canning & Freezing Co. of Oregon, at Pendleton, and of Smith Frozen Foods, of Oregon and Idaho.

His civic connections are numerous, including membership in the National Council of Boy Scouts. He was named First Junior Citizen of Oregon for 1950, and has been a director of the famous Pendleton Roundup. He studied business administration at the University of Utah.

Lorenzo Hoopes, who also came to USDA from the field of business, will return to take an executive position with the Safeway Stores, in Oakland, Calif. "Mr. Hoopes has performed a difficult top-level staff job in the Department with effectiveness and efficiency that has been a distinct service to agriculture," said Secretary Benson.

Better poultry meat

A group of scientists drawn from the Marketing Research Division, AMS, and co-operators, have completed tests of five sanitizing methods for use in poultry processing. The results are published in USDA Circular 930. One of the methods, that of inplant chlorination of all processing water, was exceptionally effective in decreasing bacterial counts on equipment and carcasses, and banishing plant odors. Chlorinated snow was not much better than snow, or "snow made from plain water." Mechanical washing after evisceration improved appearance and quality. Dips in a chemical sanitizer showed promise, and ultraviolet-ray treatment of poultry just before packing was particularly effective at the surface. Combinations of various methods may result in better processing. The circular gives details and suggestions for handling.

Gain in tractors

The number of tractors owned by colored farmers in Mississippi rose from 242 in 1930 to 6,311 in 1950. They owned a fifth of the farm tractors in the State, whereas they themselves made up 49 percent of the farm operators. However, the average size of their farms was 37 acres. The figures are based on a study made by B. W. Harris, head of the department of agricultural economics of Alcorn A&M College, Alcorn, Miss.

Brief and choice

Co-op farm mortgages

About 1 out of every 6 farmers who obtained a farm mortgage loan in the first 6 months of 1954 got a land bank loan through one of the 1,100 local national farm loan associations. These credit cooperatives accounted for 16 percent of the total farm mortgages recorded, FCA reports. Commercial banks and trust companies accounted for 26 percent of the amount of new farm mortgages, individuals 26 percent, insurance companies 21 percent, and miscellaneous lenders 11 percent.

Miss Viehmann retires

Miss Catherine Viehmann, an AMS editor, retired from USDA service on her return in October from a trip to Europe. Miss Viehmann received the Superior Service Award last May. She was cited for developing editorial techniques and for effective training of writers. Having entered the Department when very young, Miss Viehmann was here when the old Bureau of Agricultural Economics was set up in 1922. She followed through with PMA and other agencies and became editor for AMS when that group was organized. She will continue to live in Washington.

Sheep scrapie under control

The Department announced October 20 that all known outbreaks of scrapie-disease of sheep had been eradicated. Eleven infected flocks have been destroyed since July. There is no known cure. Because the disease runs through a long course, ARS veterinarians and State officials in cooperation with them are slow to claim final eradication, but they believe the present program is proving effective.

Tom Thumb test plant

Many new chemicals are tested as fumigants each year at the Manhattan station in Kansas. These tests are neither full-scale nor pilot-scale, but are in miniature. Stopped small wire cages the size of a man's thumb are used to contain the insects. The cages are then suspended in a 20-liter flask, the air pumped out to form a partial vacuum, measured amount of fumigant injected, and careful observations of mortality taken. Great savings are made in operations, and in determining the minimum lethal dosages. N. M. Dennis and W. K. Whitney of the Stored Products Section, Biological Sciences Branch, AMS, describe the plant in an illustrated leaflet.

Gilt edge investment

We are now prepared to meet the future trained in the best methods of farming and able to conduct our farming operations in a businesslike manner," wrote a Swan Lake, Mississippi, Negro farmer to T. B. Fatherree, State Director of Farmers Home Administration. The farmer, Nelson Davis, had just completed repaying his farm ownership loan to FHA. "We are now able," he added, "to take our place in society, realizing our responsibility to our fellow man and to our beloved United States."

Tobacco exports

United States exports of tobacco last year amounted to 516,357,000 pounds, leading the world. But there are other large exporters: Turkey sent abroad 147,910,000 pounds, and Greece 107,860,000 pounds, and India 68,076,000 pounds. The trade reports that the Iron Curtain countries are bidding for oriental-type tobaccos.

Home never like this

MOST OF the 2,100 farm women from 42 States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii, who came to Washington, D. C., in November for the 18th annual meeting of their National Home Demonstration Council, had never been in the Nation's capital before. They found it a unique experience—not only attending a full schedule of meetings headlined by top speakers, but visiting the White House, the Capitol, Mt. Vernon, and other historic and scenic spots as time permitted. They were kept busy, as usual, but with a difference.

"Home was never like this," the women seemed to feel as they enjoyed meals they didn't have to cook, learned more about better homemaking from some of the country's leading authorities, divided into groups to attend teas at various embassies ranging geographically from Pakistan and Indonesia to Chile and Peru, called on some of their Congressmen and Senators, voted by absentee ballot on Election Day, were interviewed and photographed by newspaper reporters and magazine writers, made radio tape recordings, and saw the inside workings of their National Council—which is composed of State organizations of homemakers in Home Demonstration Clubs under the leadership of County Home Demonstration Agents throughout the country.

They footed their own bills too, without a dime from Uncle Sam or out of the taxpayer's pocket. And when they bid each other goodbye, most added, "I'll see you next August in Chicago"—which is where the 1955 meeting will be held.

Book on incentive awards

Personnel Director MacHenry Schafer announces a forthcoming booklet on "Recognizing Employees Through Incentive Awards," to be published by the Civil Service Commission. The Commission does not stock the publication, but USDA personnel offices were enabled to order copies by cooperation of the Office of Information. The book will serve as a guide for the use of awards and recognition in maintaining good employer-employee relations.

Hearing on grain beetle

A hearing on the proposed quarantine against the khapra beetle, which eats grain wet or dry, was called for December 1 in Denver, Colo. The quarantine would cover California, Arizona, and New Mexico. The centers of infestation are mainly in the San Joaquin Valley of California, and in central Arizona. The insect thrives in southern climes and in heated storages further north, and is strongly resistant to fumigants.

A Voice from the tub

Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity. —DIOGENES

CSS Employee Council

CSS EMPLOYEE COUNCIL, under the chairmanship of N. Battle Hales of the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Production, has a program for the year covering four general subjects: Administrative Services, cafeteria and recreation activities, personnel, and fiscal.

John Hamilton, Director, CSS Administrative Services Division, met with the Council at the first of two sessions on Administrative Services. Suggestions submitted by CSS employees, ranging all the way from air-conditioning to traffic regulation, were discussed. Suggestions or problems which are of interest to the Department as a whole will be submitted to the Department Employee Council by CSS representative Wilson Westbrook, Grain Division. Members of the information committee of the CSS Council are: Celia P. Clinkinbeard, Chairman, Clyde F. Clark, and William K. Bing.

The Department Employee Council was established by the Office of Personnel as an official body to study personnel and administrative problems and advise the Director of Personnel. Elections are held biennially, half of the members at a time, making the council a continuous group.

Bonds for farm reserves

A MEMORANDUM from Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to all USDA agency heads calls attention to the opportunity to invest in United States Savings Bonds. Thrifty farmers bought 369 million dollars worth in 1953 and may buy even more this year. Says the memo:

"There are many reasons why a farmer should buy United States Savings Bonds—for a farm reserve fund to take care of emergencies, education for the children, farm and home improvement, machinery replacement, and for retirement purposes in later years. All Department personnel are urged to recommend United States Savings Bonds to farmers when opportunity offers and to cooperate with the Savings Bonds Division of the Treasury Department in reaching the farmers of the Nation. Investing in Savings Bonds builds up reserve buying power in the hands of our people. This is important to the business of every community in which farm products are sold, and it helps in defending the Nation and making life and liberty more secure."

Geese as hoe-hands

If you happen to think that a goose is stupid, you might be surprised to learn that it knows the difference between grass and young cotton and sugar beet plants and can be helpful as a hoe-hand in the field. An article in *Colliers* for November 26, "Farmers Find a New Use for a Goose," tells of farms in Missouri, Louisiana, and other States of the deep South and California, where some farmers are employing geese by the thousands to keep growing crops free of grass. Of course, there will need to be a market outlet for fat geese. And this the author assures us is at present taking care of itself—the goose population in the United States has gone down, and people's appetite for goose seems to be going up. Goose pelts, powder-puffs, and down for lining arctic suits and uniforms are a few of the present byproducts. Wartime and postwar experience indicated that there were some problems in goose-appetite control. So what if the goose is so grass-hungry that it has to be kept in bounds with fences costing \$4 an acre, and so temperamental that it must have a sympathetic herder to converse with? Anyway, it's good to know that the goose as a grasser has been rediscovered.

Foreign study fellowships

The Ford Foundation is offering a number of foreign study and research fellowships to outstanding young American men and women who seek to become competent in the cultures, histories, and current problems of Africa, Asia, and the Near East, and the Soviet and East European areas. The Fellowships are for postgraduate study or research, either in the United States or abroad, Office of Personnel announces.

Application forms and further information should be obtained from the Ford Foundation, Foreign Study and Research Fellowship Program, 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. All applications must be filed by January 7, 1955. African studies awards will be announced on or about April 1, 1955; Asian and Near Eastern studies awards on or about April 15, 1955; and Soviet and East European Studies awards on or about May 1, 1955.

Employee liability

SHOULD a Department employee obtain public liability insurance in connection with driving on official business? The decision is up to the individual driver. According to MacHenry Schafer, Director of the Office of Personnel, certain facts should be made known to all who drive on official business.

First, it is Department policy not to require the employee to take out liability insurance as a prerequisite to driving an official car. Second, the Federal Tort Claims Act permits the United States to be sued, but it does not relieve the employee of personal liability. It is up to the injured party to decide whether to sue the Government or the individual—which does not rule out the possibility that the employee rather than the Government may be sued in some cases.

Another law prohibits assistance in prosecution of claims against the Government, except in carrying out official duties. However, in case of an accident, the employee can inform the party that if he feels the Government, through its employee, is responsible for an accident or casualty, he may proceed under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The private party may be furnished forms for filing a claim, and he may be assisted, on his request, in observing the scene of the accident to obtain information.

For a day unmarred

THE DEPARTMENT is asking every employee to participate personally in keeping the day, Wednesday, December 15, unmarred by traffic accident. The announcement from the Office of Personnel cites the President's Action Committee for Traffic Safety appeal, made in cooperation with all major traffic-safety organizations in the United States, in promoting S-D Day (Safe Driving Day):

S-D Day is being planned as a dramatic demonstration of what can be accomplished if every citizen accepts personal responsibility for safety. The President has given his personal approval to the project.

The challenge of S-D Day is to remain completely free of traffic accidents on Wednesday, December 15, 1954. Intensive public education and promotion will be carried on for 30 days preceding S-D Day in the greatest cooperative campaign for safety ever undertaken in this country.

Individual motorists and pedestrians are urged to give complete adherence to the following basic safety principles.

1. Observe the letter and the spirit of all traffic regulations.

2. Be courteous to every driver and pedestrian—practice sportsmanship.

3. Give full attention to driving and walking.

In short: Drive and walk as they would have everyone else drive and walk.

Arbor Day in December

Do you know that in 3 Southern States Arbor Day is celebrated in December? Arkansas observes the event on December 1, Mississippi and South Carolina on December 7. The reason: It's a good time to plant trees in those States.

NPIP meet at Purdue, December 16-17

A regional NPIP conference of five East North Central States, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin, is planned at Purdue University, December 16 and 17. This corresponds to the regional conference at Michigan State College in June 1953. The Purdue conference has been moved up to precede the hatching season.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 15, 1954

Conservationist honors

THREE MEMBERS of USDA were presented fellowships by the Soil Conservation Society of America, at the annual meeting at Jacksonville, Fla., last month. The presentations were made by R. H. Musser, SCS, of Washington, D. C., past president of the Society. Recipients were the following:

Frank C. Edminster, State conservationist, New Brunswick, N. J. For developing (while biologist in SCS) techniques in farm fishpond management and in shrub plantings to benefit wildlife in the northeastern section of the United States.

Glenn L. Fuller, SCS, of San Juan, P. R. Mr. Fuller in 1934 directed the first national survey showing erosion conditions of the United States. He was an associate of Dr. H. H. Bennett, former chief of the SCS, in organization of a number of erosion control projects.

Donald A. Williams, Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service. Born and trained in South Dakota, he advanced through the ranks of SCS since 1935. He has long taken a prominent part in the development of conservation irrigation farming. Present for the ceremony were more than 300 top U. S. and Canadian professional soil conservationists.

C. E. Ramser, a veteran of 40 years in agricultural research with USDA, and author of more than 100 bulletins and articles on soil and water conservation, terracing, drainage and flood control, was made an honorary member.

Austin L. Patrick, SCS, of Arlington, Va., field service representative for the Corn Belt, was elected president of the 6,000-member Society. Edward H. Graham of Falls Church was elected vice president; Robert M. Salter of Silver Spring, second vice president; Howard R. Bissland of Winter Park, Fla., treasurer; and Firman E. Bear of New Brunswick, N. J., Chester S. Wilson of St. Paul, Minn., and Elmer L. Sauer of Champaign, Ill., council members.

New library hours

The new hours of the Reference Reading Room and Lending Services of the Department Library, Room 1052, South Building, are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. This provides service one-half hour beyond the regular Department of Agriculture working hours in Washington. The Library will be closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Administrative Assistant Secretary Ralph S. Roberts' memo says that upon advance notification of needs, books for employees who must use the Library during other than regular working hours will be placed in the Library office for individual use after 6:00 p. m. or on Saturdays.

A Christmas Message

ONE of the great blessings of the Christmas Season is the opportunity it affords us all to wish each other peace, happiness, and prosperity. At this time of the year more than any other our thoughts are turning more to giving and less to getting. In our lives there is more of the spirit of the First Christmas—"Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men."

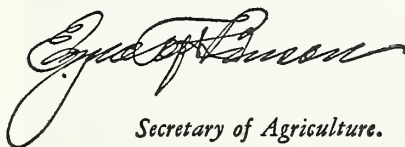
It is, therefore, a real pleasure for my family, my immediate staff, and myself to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We are deeply grateful for your devotion and unselfish service in this important part of our great Government which accepts God as its Divine Ruler and the people as sovereign.

At this Christmas Season, as in all seasons, we can be extremely grateful that we live in a land where people are important and their welfare comes before that of the State. With this feeling toward our fellow men in all parts of the world, we are saddened by the realization that this freedom is not a common blessing. In some countries the thirst for power and the unwarranted fears have shackled the wrists and ankles and minds of the people.

While we regret that they cannot enjoy the blessings of freedom taken so much for granted in this country, we are profoundly grateful that we do not have to chafe under their bonds.

Let us then at this Christmas Season bow our heads in a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings which we enjoy. In the New Year let us resolve to protect with our property, our sacred honor and our lives, if necessary, those principles of freedom which have contributed so much to the peace, the happiness, and the prosperity which we are privileged to enjoy in this great country.

Let us dedicate anew our lives to the great unfinished task of bringing peace and freedom to all mankind. Let us by unselfish and unstinted service keep working toward the goal voiced to the Shepherds of Galilee that peace in all the earth and good will to all men may be realized.


Secretary of Agriculture.

Bees earn their honey

BEE COLONIES are becoming a familiar sight in the orchards and meadows of rich valleys within a few hours' drive of Washington. True, they produce honey, but they are stationed as they are to pollinate the blossoms of fruit trees, clovers, and alfalfa. Some good farmers spend considerable sums to rent the bees from the apiarists. Even more spectacular is the use of bees in the West, where they have given an uplift to alfalfa seed production.

The crop of alfalfa seed in California in 1945 was negligible; by 1952 the production was 28 million pounds, and the larger part of all the certified alfalfa seed adapted to the northern and central States was produced in California. Bees were partly responsible. The small alkali bee (*Noma melanderi*) was credited with increasing yields in Washington State up to 1,000 percent. The bee is important in Utah, where farmers take pains not to disturb the nests in moist hummocky ground.

The honey bees that carry pollen to fertilize the flowers of trees and field crops certainly earn their honey, and the beekeepers take a tidy \$50 million a year from the hives. It was long thought that the nectar cells of many clovers were too deep for the bees to reach, but they do reach enough blossoms to increase the crops. The wild bees also play an important part in the job of pollination. More than 100 kinds of bees visit alfalfa, and more than 5,000 kinds of insects handle the job of pollinating the most important flowering plants. Even cotton responds. Yields went up 22 percent in experimental tests at the USDA's Southwestern Bee Culture Laboratory at Tucson, Ariz. Although the cotton flower is self-fertile, the plants fertilized by bees set more bolls, bore more seeds, and produced more lint than those not visited by the bees.

USDA agronomists chosen

A number of USDA agronomists attended the American Society of Agronomy at the St. Paul meeting last month. Elected to division offices were the following: R. F. Rietemeier, ARS, Beltsville, was elected as the new vice chairman and program chairman of the Soil Chemistry Division of the Society. Roy W. Simonson, Soil Survey, SCS, was elected the new vice chairman of the Soil Genesis, Morphology and Cartography Division of the Society. M. A. Hein, ARS, Beltsville, was elected the vice chairman of the Crop Production and Management Division. C. S. Garrison, ARS, Beltsville, became the new chairman of the Seed Production and Technology Division. W. H. Allaway, ARS, Beltsville, is new chairman of the Soil Conservation, Drainage, Irrigation, and Tillage Division.

A big bird for Christmas

POULTRY SPECIALISTS of the Department call attention to advantages of the big bird for Christmas. If the family is large or there are to be many guests, it will pay homemakers to buy the big birds. A big turkey will generally cost less per pound.

The year 1954 has set a new record for turkey production—61 million birds. This need not be too many, for turkey meat has become popular throughout the year. There has been good demand for both types of turkeys, the small and the heavy birds, with consequent reasonable prices.

In early studies Department representatives find that larger numbers of turkey hens have been tested for inclusion in breeding flocks. There appears to be danger of overproduction in 1955. There was also a large increase in hatching of poults in September and October. The Department has called attention to early-season developments while there is still time for the industry to adjust production more in line with market requirements for the 1955 crop.

W. R. Beattie, dies at 83

Dr. William R. Beattie, radio broadcaster on gardening and former USDA horticulturist, died at the age of 83, November 21. Born at Zanesville, Ohio, and holding degrees from Ohio State University he joined the Department, and for 25 years was on radio programs for WRC. Following his retirement in 1940, he carried on his own radio program "Gardening with Beattie" until his health failed about a year ago. A brother, J. H. Beattie, writes a garden column for a Washington newspaper.

Vera K. Charles

Miss Vera K. Charles, who retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry in June 1942, after more than 38 years of work with the fungi, died in November. Miss Charles received her technical training under the late Prof. Atkinson of Cornell University. She early became a specialist in the large and difficult group of fungi which includes the edible and poisonous mushrooms, preparing several Department publications on the subject and acting as consulting specialist in mushroom-poisoning cases.

Miss Charles took an active part in maintenance and up-building of the fungi collections of the Department, now among the largest in the world. Before the establishment of the Plant Quarantine service she inspected imported plant materials, particularly those consigned to the Department, for plant diseases. She also wrote bulletins on fungi that parasitize men and animals, especially on those transferring diseases from muskrats and cats to man. Her work in the field of parasites that help to check the depredations of many economic insect pests culminated in publication of a checklist of the entomogenous fungi of North America.

Country life in "fringes"

COMMENTING ON the movement of millions of people from the large cities into "fringe areas" around them, Prof. W. A. Anderson, writing for *Farm Research*, says:

Social change is never the consequence of a single cause. Many things contribute to the "fringe" movement. Mechanization of agriculture, universal use of the automobile, and the vast network of hard-surfaced roads that make traveling possible over distances and under all weather conditions, are, together with rural electrification and other technological advances, among the chief changes that have made possible this rural invasion. There is also the desire of families with children to escape from crowded city streets to the pleasanter, more healthful, and safer rural areas. A greater chance for home ownership because of lower building costs, decreased living expenses from lower taxes, benefits and returns from gardening and other supplementary activities stimulate others to take up rural residence.

From the point of view of the "fringe" areas themselves, a most important concern is the type of family that makes up this invading army. The movement is one of families. Few single adults move to the rural areas; they concentrate in the cities.

He notes that most of these families are young. There are many social problems of sanitation, policing, and conflicting interests; and he observes that social machinery to cope with these rapid changes are far from up-to-date. Though these people live in the country, they are part of the economic life of the city.

Hey for holly!

G. FILIPPO GRAVATT, ARS, Beltsville, who hollers for holly almost as well as he cheers for chestnuts, attended the fifteenth meeting of the Holly Society of America November 11 at Millville, in southern New Jersey's piney woods area famous for abundance of our native *Ilex* and about 40 miles from the town of Mt. Holly. The Society has 13 aims and purposes, including conservative cutting of market holly, promotion of research, finding superior clones, and preserving "living memorial" stands of native holly.

In the Holly Room of the Millville Y. M. C. A. are 8 recently finished paintings showing this much-favored plant. They range from antediluvian times when Triceratops, an herbivorous dinosaur, lived with it and the ancient ferns, onward to pictures illustrating superstitions about holly, symbolism, medication, tradition, and its use for an Argentine tea, and for landscaping.

Mr. Gravatt, who is a senior pathologist, gave a report on holly diseases, including two that are new—one in the northwest and one in Louisiana.

10 Afghans at Wyoming

Ten students from Afghanistan have had courses in agriculture at the College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming.

FOR SUPERIOR WORK

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Marketing Service: Marian K. Burrows, auditor, Chicago, Ill.; Frances B. Hanshaw, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.; Cecilia M. Murnane, processed fruit and vegetable inspector, Columbus, Ohio; Phyllis M. Walker, processed fruit and vegetable inspector, Chicago, Ill.

Agricultural Research Service: Bessie S. Rubin, secretary (stenographer), Washington, D. C.

Commodity Stabilization Service: Allen N. Chambers, auditor, Dallas, Tex.; Marion D. Fry, secretary, Chicago, Ill.; Esther B. Krikorian, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.; Iris H. McAnally, clerk-typist, Dallas, Tex.; Yukie Nishizaki, clerk-stenographer, Hilo, Hawaii.

Forest Service: Archie L. Bolander, forester (range management), Carson National Forest, Taos, N. Mex.; John V. Davis, fire control aid, San Francisco, Calif.; Wayne E. Deemer, engineering draftsman, Arcadia, Calif.; Eugenia C. Goodline, clerk-stenographer, Bangor, Maine; Lyle W. Hill, fire control aid, San Francisco, Calif.; Norman H. Hack, forester, adm., Reno, Nev.; Margery N. Houston, Clerk-stenographer, Tucson, Ariz.; Oscar S. Isakson, resource management clerk, Cass Lake, Minn.; Roy A. Johnson, forester (administration), Ely, Minn.; Eino R. Koski, forestry aid (general), Two Harbors, Minn.; Edward W. Kuenzi, engineer (general), Madison, Wis.; John J. Keetch, forester (fire control), Asheville, N. C.; Arne S. Pennala, forestry aid (general), Ely, Minn.; George I. Reynolds, marine engineer-inspector, Petersburg, Alaska; William G. Wahlenberg, forester (silviculture), Asheville, N. C.; Frank J. Zimmerman, fire control aid, San Francisco, Calif.

Forest Service yule trees

NATIONAL FORESTS are supplying Christmas trees for many of the armed services bases and hospitals. The Forest Service people make these trees available without charge. National forests in California plan to supply some 5,000 trees this year to help make Christmas merry for the men at armed service bases on the West Coast.

Christmas trees are big business in many of the national forests throughout the country. The trees are sold on bid to commercial operators, who cut them under Forest Service supervision. The cutting is planned to thin overcrowded young stands and so benefit the forest. Besides that, it brings in thousands of dollars to the U. S. Treasury.

None so urgent

It is the policy of CSS to consider accident prevention and elimination of health hazards to employees as a major objective to be carefully considered at all times. There is no job in CSS so important and no activity so urgent that time cannot be spared to plan and perform the work safely. (CSS Instruction No. 355-1.)

Tell of co-op conservation work

A group of farmers and professional men from Stafford County, Va., gave a panel discussion on the theme "Doing Conservation Work Together in Stafford County, Virginia," at the November meeting of the Washington, D. C., chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. The program was one of a 1954 series on teamwork for conservation. W. J. Endersbee, of the Department of the Interior, chapter president, was chairman. Other officers of the chapter are R. L. Ayers, of the ACP Service, vice president; and A. M. Hedge of SCS, USDA, secretary-treasurer.

For the December program, Sherman Johnson, Director of Farm and Land Management Research, ARS, was scheduled to speak on "Shifts in American Agriculture—Whither Conservation."

Nominations for Jump Award due

Nominations for the William A. Jump Award are now in order. W. Arthur Minor, chairman of the board of trustees, urges nominating agencies to send in the names promptly, since all nominations to be eligible for the 1955 award must be received no later than February 1.

The honor will go to Federal Government employees in the civil or armed services who because of exemplary achievements and sustained high-level performance in the field of public administration contribute in an unusual sense and especially commendable way to the public service. In the past 5 years a total of seven awards have been made.

Extension agronomist dies

O. S. Fisher, agronomist, formerly of Extension Service and a member of the International Crop Improvement Association, died in Washington, D. C., November 3. He joined the Department in 1916, retired in 1948.

Oregon Aggies dine

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Douglas McKay addressed a dinner meeting of the Washington, D. C., alumni of Oregon State College November 14, and recalled campus associations before World War I. President A. L. Strand predicted increased enrollment at least commensurate with the growth of population. Deans F. E. Price of Agriculture and George Gleason of Engineering also spoke. C. R. (Cy) Briggs, AMS, president of the association, was toastmaster. Mrs. Zelta Rodenwold, ARS, was elected president for 1955, and Hanford Van Ness, Bureau of Standards, secretary.

Also among USDA members at the dinner were: Mrs. Celia Coon, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. DeLoach, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Dieffenback, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Thorland Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hurst, Dr. and Mrs. Merle Jenkins, Miss Dorothy Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Joy, Dr. and Mrs. John Magness, Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Dr. and Mrs. Ben Pubols, Dr. and Mrs. B. T. Simms, Edmund Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Briggs and daughter Dorothy Briggs.

Olympics in silence

HAVE YOU heard about the Olympics for athletes who have lost their hearing? An employee of the USDA has developed a hobby that has earned remarkable success. He is S. Robey Burns, AMS, John C. Baker, former chief of radio, Office of Information, now Chief of the Midwest Marketing Information Division of AMS, Chicago, writes:

"America's leading enthusiast for participation of United States deaf athletes in the International Games for the Deaf is USDA's own S. Robey Burns. Mr. Burns, a deaf mute, is employed by the Budget and Finance Branch, Central Area Administrative Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, in Chicago.

"Mr. Burns for many years has worked fervently to round up athletes and obtain financing for sending them to these 'Olympic' games in Europe. *The Silent Worker*, national magazine for the deaf, credits him with being more responsible than any other one man for their achievements.

"With him to meets in London in 1935, Stockholm 1939, Copenhagen 1949, Brussels 1953, Mr. Burns took the American flag presented to him in 1935 when he was coach at the Illinois School for the Deaf. The Director of Public Welfare for the State of Illinois made the presentation. Burns is already at work financing participation of deaf athletes in the next International Games at Rome in 1957. An excellent sports writer, he covered the Brussels meet for *The Silent Worker* (January 1954 issue).

"In recognition of his devotion to these games, the Comité International des Sports Silencieux awarded Mr. Burns an Honor Tablet at its 13th Congress following the games at Brussels. This rare reward is given only to the greatest benefactors of the International Games for the Deaf."

Mr. Burns began his service with USDA in Washington in 1937 and has been located in Chicago since August 1943.

Denied trading privileges

Following CEA reports that several Chicago brokerage firms and one commodity futures trader in Texas had violated provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act, Judicial Officer Thomas J. Flavin of the Department, in November ordered imposition of sanctions against them, effective January 10, 1955. The respondents, who waived hearings and consented to entry of the sanctions, are as follows: Edward R. Beyer, denied trading privileges on all contract markets for 90 days; James T. McKerr and Charles J. McKerr, for 10 days; Joel Starrels, and Gilbert D. Mathy, 5 days; and James T. McKerr & Co., denied trading privileges for its own account for 10 days.

Spirit of the campus

"THAT WARM friendly and human understanding which is so characteristic of the AC campus is now radiating to the four corners of the earth and to many important positions of leadership, particularly here in the Nation's Capitol."

In these words Dr. Carl Frischknecht, Director of Extension Service of the Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, greeted the 80 or more members of the Washington Chapter of the USAC alumni at their annual dinner meeting November 12. Dr. R. H. Walker, Dean of the School of Agriculture, and Director of Utah Experiment Station, also represented the AC staff at the dinner and expressed a similar thought. Representative Henry Aldos Dixon, 1954 president, was unable to attend.

Dr. Frischknecht called attention to several AC graduates holding positions of leadership in the Government, including Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; Edgar B. Brossard, Chairman, Tariff Commission; Byron T. Shaw, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, USDA; Edward P. Cliff, assistant chief of the Forest Service.

Among Department people at the dinner were: Dr. Shaw; Everett R. Doman, Forest Service; and Milton Mangum, ACPs. New officers elected were: Serge Benson, nephew of Secretary Benson, president; Leah Lillywhite, vice president; Martha Peterson, daughter of President Emeritus Elmer G. Peterson of the USAC, secretary-treasurer; and Lindsey K. Thomas, Lynn Ludlow of REA, and Ineda Hickman Roe, committeemen.

Urge survey of food waste

A SURVEY of food losses and waste at all stages of food distribution and utilization was urged by the Food and Nutrition Research Advisory Committee at its meeting here November 8-10. The committee noted that national per capita "retail level" procurement of food generally is supposed to be at some 3,200 calories daily, but that the amount actually eaten may be only 2,400 or 2,500 calories. Where the 700 to 800 missing calories go between the supplying establishment and the consumer—in spoilage, loss in preparation and cooking, and left on plates—is what the committee believes needs determining, particularly in household, institution, and restaurant kitchens.

After reviewing the entire nutrition program of the U. S. Department of

Agriculture, the committee urged that increased support be given human nutrition research. The committee was established under the Research Marketing Act of 1946. Dr. Grace A. Goldsmith, Tulane University, was reelected chairman, and Dr. Pearl Swanson, Iowa State College, vice chairman.

Death of Dean Iddings

Dr. J. E. Iddings, former Dean of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and Director of Extension, died at Hemet, Calif., October 22. Mr. and Mrs. Iddings made their home in San Jacinto after retirement about a year ago. Establishment of the Iddings Foundation at Idaho was announced last November. Dr. Iddings was a graduate of Colorado A. & M. (1907) and had been a member of the Idaho faculty since 1910.

Pohlman heads agronomists

G. G. Pohlman, head of the Department of Agronomy and Genetics, University of West Virginia, is the new president of the American Society of Agronomy, which met in St. Paul in November. He succeeds C. J. Willard of Ohio State University. Iver Johnson of Iowa State College succeeds Dr. Pohlman as vice president.

The new president of the Soil Science Society of America is M. B. Russell of the University of Illinois, who has served as vice president during the past year. He succeeds Emil Truog of the University of Wisconsin. The new vice president is D. W. Thorne of Utah State Agricultural College.

The new president of the Crop Science Division of the American Society of Agronomy is G. H. Stringfield of the Ohio State Agricultural Experiment Station. He succeeds H. L. Ahlgren of the University of Wisconsin, and the new vice president is G. O. Mott of Purdue University. Dr. A. H. Moseman, Director of Crops Research, ARS, and Dr. Martin G. Weiss, Chief of Field Crops Research Branch, were among those representing the Department. Next year's meeting will be held August 15-19 at Davis, Calif.

Voyage of Highland cattle

Said to be the largest shipment of Scottish Highland cattle ever made to the United States, 21 young bulls left the Clyde October 29 for Montana. It will take at least 2 months for them to reach the western ranges, since they must pass through 30 days' quarantine at Quebec and a similar period when crossing from Canada into the United States. Members of the Scottish Highland Cattle Breeders Association will distribute the bulls to ranches in Montana and adjoining States.

Weather observer for 60 years

Father Adelhelm Hess of Conception, Mo., on November 1 completed 60 years as a Co-operative Observer for the Weather Bureau. This makes him a member of an exclusive club of weather observers who are still active and have served 60 or more years. The club now has four members: George Richards of Maple Plain, Minn., age 83, with 63 years of service; Henry H. Crisler of Fort Gibson, Miss., age 85, with 63 years; B. C. Hawkins of Rock House, N. C., age 80, with 62 years; and Father Adelhelm Hess, age 80. President Eisenhower has written Father Hess a letter of commendation. There are now approximately 11,000 cooperative weather observers in the United States.

"Said on the Side"

EVERY YEAR a new ripe crop of maturity leaves the parental tree at USDA, which is better than being rudely shaken down while still green and growing. In the nature of things there are always memories stamped on the minds of departing fellowcrafters, as they pack their brief cases and take that last official passage through the marble doorway northward leading to the wide and majestic-visioned Mall.

Pause for a moment for reflection on Madison street, looking backward across the quickly fading light of a November day . . . the huge white and gray pile with outstretched wings, yellow points of brilliance glimmering on every floor . . . black wrought-iron gates flung back, streams of vivid gold flowing on ahead of the footsteps of night-bound workers, leaving more tasks behind them as a challenge for tomorrow, next week, maybe next year. . . .

Giving your last goodbye to the familiar uniformed guard and the elevator operator . . . waving again toward the gang at the information desks in room 104 . . . a lingering look at the columned patio where many Christmas programs, Memorial Day ceremonies, hobby shows, and scientific displays have captured and held your loyal interest . . . then you wonder how so few fellow citizens are aware that for every ridiculed "bureaucrat" there are countless human ties sustaining the fibers of this institution . . . not just here, where the calm, white dignity of the Monument inspires us, but everywhere in this world where men and women serve devotedly under the Great Seal of the cord, the shield, the corn, and the plow.

ELWOOD R. MCINTYRE

Mr. McIntyre will be remembered as former editor of USDA.

New home economy head

Mrs. Bertha Akin Gregory has been appointed Professor and Director of the School of Home Economics of the Arizona Experiment Station. She holds degrees from Nevada and Minnesota Universities.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 29, 1954

FS Golden Anniversary

THE FOREST SERVICE, USDA, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1955. This Service, as we know it now, was established in February 1905, with Gifford Pinchot as the Forester. A strong, controversial figure, he fought for what President Theodore Roosevelt called "conservation through wise use." For-ester Pinchot himself liked to tell that the watchword "Conservation" for the growing movement came to him as he rode horseback through the woods near Washington.

The Forest Service recently, in an announcement leaflet "Golden Anniversary Goals," saluted the State forest departments, forest industries, forestry schools, conservation organizations, and all forest land managers—private and public alike—who have helped to make noteworthy progress in forestry during the past half century.

Observance of the Golden Anniversary of the Forest Service has these objectives:

1. To remind the American people of their determined action in 1905 to bring about protection, management, and continuing development of their forests and related resources.

2. To make the American people aware of the progress in forestry during the past half century by both private and public agencies.

3. To help the American people gain a better understanding of their dependence upon the water, wood, forage, wildlife, and recreation provided by their forest lands.

4. To encourage greater progress in forestry—for national good—in the future.

AAEA award to Secretary Benson

The Department was well represented at the International Livestock Show, the American Agricultural Editors' Association, Newspaper Farm Editors' Association, and other meetings in Chicago around December 1. Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, was recipient of the AAEA award for having "rendered outstanding service to Agriculture." Secretary Benson, in accepting the award from AAEA President Robert Reed, said that any honor that comes from editors is to be cherished because an editorial nod is not lightly given. E. R. McIntyre, editor, who retired from the Department last year, and Dave Thompson, of Noblesville, Ind., received honorary memberships.

Science in eight languages

A "Multilingual Vocabulary of Science Terms" which gives terms and definitions of several hundred words in eight languages, has been published by the Food and Agriculture Organization. The work, arranged for by the International Soil Science Society and its Nomenclature Committees, has been completed through active collaboration of soil scientists in several countries.

New appointment system

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES will have a new career-conditional appointment system, starting January 23, 1955. The President, under Executive Order 10577 of November 22, 1954, has authorized and directed the Civil Service Commission to establish such a system for the competitive service (other than the Post Office field service), and has approved a complete revision of the Civil Service Rules. This system has been designed to be more effective in the recruitment and retention of competent employees, to be adjustable to fluctuations in Federal employment in the future, and to provide an equitable and orderly means for stabilizing the present Federal work force.

Major features of the new career-conditional appointment system are:

1. No new indefinite appointments will be made.

2. Generally, eligibles selected from competitive registers for other than temporary appointments will be given career-conditional appointments. Employees serving under such appointments will be granted competitive status upon completion of probation but will be serving with conditional tenure. After serving 3 years under career-conditional appointments, they will automatically have career appointments.

3. Career-conditional employees will be in a higher retention group than employees serving under nonstatus appointments, but in a lower group than full career employees.

4. A few new appointments will be made initially as career appointments. The groups involved include employees in positions paid under the Postal Pay Act, Hearing Examiners, and former legislative and judicial employees eligible for competitive status under section 2 (b) or 2 (c) of the Ramspeck Act.

5. Career and career-conditional em-

ployees who leave the service may be re-instated upon meeting certain conditions.

6. New appointments outside registers will be made as temporary rather than indefinite appointments.

The tenure of employees with permanent or probational tenure on December 31, 1954, will not be changed even though they may have less than 3 years creditable service. Such employees will have career appointments. The current system of job and emergency appointments will be continued under the new program.

Existing probational and indefinite registers will be used to make career-conditional appointments. Most indefinite employees will have their appointments converted to career or career-conditional appointments under various special provisions or will become eligible to receive career-conditional or career appointments by competing in open competitive examinations. The remaining indefinite employees remaining after a transitional period will be subject to displacement by eligibles from registers.

The egg and U. S.

ROWENA SCHMIDT MAINLAND, active for 30 years in home economics units of the Department, retired at the end of November. Following outstanding research work with the former Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Mrs. Mainland joined the Poultry Division of the former PMA and the Agricultural Marketing Service. She specialized in research on the home utilization of eggs and wrote numerous bulletins for the Department.

Mr. Termohlen gave her credit for substantial contributions to advancement of the poultry industry, poultry and poultry products having shown a greater gain than any other major food products of the farm in the last 12 years.

Happy New Year by phone

COUNTLESS NEW YEAR'S greetings will be carried over new telephones to farm folks this year. The living voice over the phone can be more warmly cheerful than the best written line.

Nearly 100,000 farm families will be able to telephone "Happy New Year's" from their homes for the first time. This is the happy result of telephone industry expansion, financed both privately and through the Rural Electrification Administration. A recent survey by Agricultural Marketing Service shows the percentage of United States farms with telephones is at an all-time high of 44.3 percent. Since the beginning of the REA telephone loan program 5 years ago, about 125,000 rural subscribers have received new or improved service from REA-financed systems.

With 153,000 new consumers of electricity added to the REA-financed systems in the past year, these rural-area people for the first time could enjoy an electric Christmas—including gaily colored lights. Altogether, about 5,000,000 farms, or better than 92 percent of all American farms, now receive the benefits of electricity. This compares to the 744,000 farms, or about 11 percent, that were electrified in 1935 when REA came into existence.

Galbraith for subsidies

THE PRESENT seems to be a good time for agriculture to renew its effort to get into the heart of its problems and seek solutions for some so far only partly solved, in the opinion of J. Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard professor of economics and USDA Graduate School lecturer, who spoke at the Jefferson Auditorium December 1 on farm policy.

Dr. Galbraith, formerly of the Department, is associated with Dr. John D. Black in the Littauer School's department of economics, and is author of a book "American Capitalism." He said the Agricultural Act of 1954 had not really come to grips with the major difficulties of past farm programs.

In this vein, he tossed the ball back and forth between various plans of the past. He suggested for practical consideration a classification of four issues facing agriculture and the Nation as follows: (1) The surplus problem, (2) the controls problem, (3) the trade problem, and (4) the discrimination problem, by which he meant the preferential treatment given to certain commodities.

The dilemmas of the surplus and control problems are well known. Export subsidies and import quotas, he said, have sometimes been in conflict with general trade policies. The discrimination problem involves tradition as well as economics, and support has depended in some measure on the keeping quality of the product.

Dr. Galbraith looks for a moderate decline in the prices of some products, but not enough to bring much change in output. The weaknesses in the agricultural laws are long standing. He thinks the farm problem will not be greatly reduced unless we take a new approach.

The speaker favored substitution of a system of subsidies to the farmer to bring up the farmer's returns to the desired level of parity. Such a change, he says, would cause the trade problem to disappear, and the desired level of returns would be assured.

Surpluses would not develop, since the market would clear. Controls would be retained, though they would be less restrictive. If there were headaches, they would cross the Mall to the Treasury!

Dr. Galbraith's lecture was one of a series arranged by the Graduate School to give members of the Department opportunity to hear the individual views of outstanding economists. The closing lecture was delivered December 8 by Dr. Charles M. Hardin of the University of Chicago, on "A Political Scientist's Analysis of Issues in Agriculture."

Lasseter named by Opeda

DILLARD B. LASSETER, former Administrator of Farmers Home Administration, has been appointed Executive Officer of the Organization of Professional Employees of the USDA. He will have charge of administrative work and of representing the interests of the employees in matters of legislation. Mr. Lasseter is well equipped by experience for this position. A member of the Georgia bar, he attended Emory University and received his degree in law at New York University. Before coming to the Department, he was staff director of the House Civil Service Investigations Committee. He retired in 1953.

Eagle-eyed editor emeritus

Compliments of the season to Jim Pickens, longtime chief editor of the former Bureau of Plant Industry, who retired at the end of 1942. Mr. Pickens reads everything currently published by the Department and impartially reminds us of our editorial bull's-eyes, near misses, and wild shots.

FCA officials promoted

H. A. VIERGUTZ, formerly vice president, has been elected president of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha by the Omaha Farm Credit Board. Previous to that he had been secretary of the Production Credit Corporation.

The Farm Credit Board of Springfield has elected Gordon Cameron executive vice president of the Federal Land Bank of Springfield, Mass. He has held several positions in the Springfield Farm Credit District.

The Farm Credit Board of Columbia (S. C.) has elected Rufus R. Clarke president of the Federal Land Bank of Columbia. He formerly was president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank and previously had served as vice president of the Land Bank. He also served for a year as Deputy Governor of the Farm Credit Administration in the 1930's. The Board elected Robert A. Darr president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia. Mr. Darr will continue to serve also as president of the Production Credit Corporation.

Tree planting gains

Tree planting set a new record in the United States, with 715,548 acres of forest and shelterbelt planted in 1953. This is a gain of 37 percent over 1952. Most of the gain was in Southern States and in Washington and Wisconsin. However, Forest Service reports some States barely held their own. Federal Government, States, and other public agencies planted more than 141,000 acres, and private landowners 567,143 acres. Michigan planted 40,000 acres on public and private lands, making it the first State to pass the 1 million mark. New York now has 886,000 acres of plantings. State nurseries are increasing their output.

Gilt edge investment

We are now prepared to meet the future trained in the best methods of farming and able to conduct our farming operations in a businesslike manner," wrote a Swan Lake, Mississippi, Negro farmer to T. B. Fatherree, State Director of Farmers Home Administration. The farmer, Nelson Davis, had just completed repaying his farm ownership loan to FHA. "We are now able," he added, "to take our place in society, realizing our responsibility to our fellow man and to our beloved United States."

On farmer's decisions

The Wisconsin Experiment Station is making a study of farmers' decisions in adopting new practices. One county has already been covered both before and after the experimental extension program was carried out, and the results published by Dr. E. A. Wilkening, rural sociologist, in Wisconsin Experiment Station Research Bulletin 183. Dr. Wilkening previously made similar studies in North Carolina. The bulletin gives more than a hint of what to expect in farmer acceptance when planning and carrying out educational programs in the country.

He switched to cotton

SOMETIMES a big switch in a man's career can be good for him and also for the Department. Cotton producers, breeders, merchants, and spinners would not know so much today about cotton fiber as they do had Robert W. Webb of the AMS Cotton Division continued his work in plant physiology, pathology, and plant anatomy which he started back in the early 1920's. Twenty years ago Arthur W. Palmer, now in charge of the Division of Cotton Marketing, FAS, asked Dr. Webb if he were interested in cotton. The young scientist from South Carolina replied that he had seen cotton raised, harvested, ginned, and made into cloth, and had faith in the future of the cotton industry in the South.

Upon being employed, he spent a large part of his time for several years in the Library of Congress searching for all known information about cotton fibers. He resolved to dedicate his life to determining yardsticks for measuring the varieties and types of cotton best suited to manufactured products.

Dr. Webb's accomplishments during 27 years of concentrated work on the development of methods of measuring and evaluating cotton fiber properties in relation to spinning quality have been extremely productive. He invented a machine for separating cotton fibers according to length. He developed the first modern cotton-fiber laboratory in America. Only two others were in existence, both in England. Now there are more than 100 Federal, State, industrial, and commercial laboratories in this country. He is the author or co-author of 36 scientific reports. He and his assistants developed the first comprehensive cotton quality research program in this country, including physical, chemical, color, microscopic and X-ray measurements on cotton fiber properties in relation to ginning, spinning, yarn and fabric tests.

Dr. Webb's services have been recognized by certificates of merit from the Department and from the Cotton Spinner-Breeder Industry Conference. He also received a USDA silver medal for superior service. Thus, a plant pathologist who switched his talents to cotton technology is now realizing his goal set many years ago.

Time-tested good advice

Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot
That it do singe yourself.

—Shakespeare

USDA: December 29, 1954

Unemployment pay

An unemployment compensation program for Federal civilian workers was established under the provisions of P. L. 767, 83d Congress. Under this program, if you are unemployed after December 31, 1954, unemployment benefits will be paid you, if you are eligible, by a State employment security agency. Your benefit rights will generally be determined by the law of the State in which you last worked. Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia are included. A pamphlet giving many of the details with respect to filing claims, records needed when filing, and eligibility requirements has been issued to all employees. If you have not received your copy, you can obtain one from your agency personnel office.

Cranberries extra good

THIS YEAR the hurricanes threatened the cranberry crop, but there are enough for everybody. Carol brought saltwater to some bogs; Edna gave them rain to wash the salt away; Hurricane Hazel, for all the bluster, did little damage to the crop, although rains delayed the picking. The quality of the berries is generally extra good, the price reasonable.

Although the crop is something like 19 percent smaller than last year's all-time high, it is 24 percent larger than the 10-year average. More picking machines have come into use, some of them gathering the berries as fast as six men. Dr. George M. Darrow, ARS, of the Beltsville Station, says the prospect for the growers in 1955 is good, although much storm damage is to be repaired. The growers' associations are in excellent position to handle the processing and marketing. Department horticulturists are continually improving and testing new varieties.

Death of John Roy Cohran

After a short illness, John Roy Cohran, for many years an employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died in Washington on Thanksgiving Day, November 25. He entered the Department in 1905 and retired in 1950. Mr. Cohran spent his entire Government career in the old Bureau of Animal Industry and at the time of his retirement had risen to the position of Special Assistant to the Chief of the Bureau. He was business manager of the Bureau for about 10 years. Born in Frankfort, Ky., Mr. Cohran grew up and received his education in Covington.

Deer carried ticks

Of 120 deer examined in the recent hunting season in Oklahoma all carried ticks. Three different species of these were found, together with a few minor pests, the Plant Pest Control Branch, ARS, reports.

Oh, boy! Grapefruit!

Completion of purchases of fancy-grade canned grapefruit sections totaling 401,200 cases of No. 2 cans for school-lunch programs was announced by USDA November 30. The grapefruit will be delivered to the schools during the period from December 20 through February 12.

Farm capital flow

AMERICAN FARMERS have produced a greatly increased supply of food and fiber for the expanding population by increasing their capital investments rather than by using more labor. Farmers today use 172 percent more capital than they did 80 years ago, but only 1 percent more labor. Eighty years is a long time, but the study of long-range developments is a major concern of Alvin S. Tostlebe, former ARS economist, who authored the booklet "The Growth of Physical Capital in Agriculture, 1870-1950," recently published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Dr. Tostlebe also points out that in 1870 more than four-fifths of the country's farm capital was concentrated in the eastern half of the United States and north of the Delta and the Southeast regions. But by 1950 the West and the Southwest had 41 percent of the capital. This, he says, emphasizes the westward movement of farming. Competition of large industrial centers in the Northeast for labor has encouraged the farmers to invest in labor-saving machinery. In like manner, greater industrialization of the South may lead to greater demand for capital.

W. T. McKeown retires

William T. McKeown retired as Deputy Director of Finance and Accounts, FCA, September 30. Mr. McKeown has been closely identified with the financing and investment programs of the cooperative credit system supervised by the Farm Credit Administration. These programs involved the purchase and sale of about \$1.8 billion securities in the market last year for the 12 Federal land banks, 12 Federal intermediate credit banks, 13 banks for cooperatives, and 12 production credit corporations. Mr. McKeown entered Government service in 1918 and in 1929 joined the Federal Farm Loan Bureau.

Brotherhood observance

The annual observance of Brotherhood Week for 1955 will occur on February 20-27. The week is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and has drawn wide support from educational institutions. An important aim is to help students to develop ideals of brotherhood and justice. President Eisenhower is honorary chairman.

Dr. Jones land-grant president

Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of Rutgers University, was elected president of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities at the 68th annual conference in Washington, D. C., November 18. Dr. Jones is a former president of the University of Arkansas. Dr. Frederick L. Hovde, president of Purdue University, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

Thoughts in Season

PRESIDENT MARVIN of George Washington University, as guest speaker at the December luncheon of the USDA Graduate School, summed up the history of the human race as 500,000 years of grubbing for enough to eat and 2,500 years of trying to learn how to live together.

For most of the people on earth, the struggle for a living is approaching satisfactory solution. Science and agriculture are rapidly getting the answers. All through the few centuries of recorded history, mankind has made slow but certain progress in the art of living together. The experienced educator finds reason to believe that the people, having caught the vision, will go forward to living in greater friendship and understanding.

In the light of this philosophy, agriculture, always taking a vital part, can feel assured that it and the cooperating public can find a way. At the end of a busy year, the U. S. Department of Agriculture can mark up progress made and foresee further gains in the year to come. Success does not entirely consist of things achieved, but also of things striven for, ideas put to work in broadening information, and the spirit of good will engendered throughout the land.

We have had pleasant labors on the *USDA Employee News Bulletin* all through the year in firm belief that it contributes something toward "living together."

How and why leaner hogs

The December pictorial exhibit in the Patio, on the "Meat-Type Hogs That Yield More Pork," was viewed by many employees and visitors to the Administration Building. It illustrated the differences between hams, chops, and bacon from meat-type and fat hogs, and showed statistically that the meat-type hog is worth at least a dollar more per hundredweight than the fat one. A pamphlet, prepared in cooperation with other USDA agencies, and issued by the Federal Extension Service explained the breeding and feeding, some of the grades, and some of the advantages of the meat-type hog. Copies of the publication are available from the Federal Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. The exhibit was sponsored by many organizations of farmers, marketers, packers, and retailers and by the USDA.

Dr. Bledsoe Promoted

Dr. R. W. Bledsoe has been named Assistant Director of the Florida Experiment Station, succeeding Dr. L. O. Gratz, who recently retired. Dr. Bledsoe holds degrees from West Virginia and Iowa Universities, and has taught at Cornell and Florida. He has made a specialty of the study of radioactive isotopes in plant nutrition research. He and Dr. H. C. Harris, also Dr. C. L. Comar, biophysicist of the Tennessee station, in 1950 received the Science Award of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

Brief and choice

Awards for livestock study

Land-grant college professors received honors at the American Society of Animal Production meetings in Chicago the last week of November. Dr. W. E. Burroughs of the Animal Husbandry Department, Iowa Experiment Station, and Dr. W. D. Gallup of the Chemistry Department, Oklahoma station, received rewards for research achievements. Dr. Gallup who has "contributed materially to the improvement of livestock rations" was presented the F. B. Morrison award of \$1,250 and a gold watch. Dr. Burroughs won the \$1,000 award presented by the American Feed Manufacturers for his basic research in better utilization of low-grade roughage by ruminants. A portrait of A. L. Weaver of Missouri was hung in the Saddle and Sirlain Club's Hall of Fame in Chicago. Dr. John I. Miller of Cornell was elected president of the society.

Dallas USDA Club doings

USDA Club of Dallas, Tex., started the new club year by holding a chicken dinner arranged by President R. N. Richardson. The dinner was given in the CSS conference room. Mildred Yeager, editor of the *News*, was presented the club's biyearly award and a citation for her efforts on behalf of the club. Russell A. Vernon, assistant chief of Field Operations, has since succeeded Mr. Richardson as president. Mr. Richardson's work had been commended by the Office of Personnel, USDA, in Washington.

\$45,000 for Nematode fight

Last spring E. J. Cairnes of the Nematology Section, Horticultural Crops Research Branch, ARS, at Beltsville, was named head of the nematology project for the Southeast Region, at Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Plans are under way to expand the program. President R. B. Draughton of the Institute recently announced receipt of a grant of \$45,000 from the Rockefeller Institute for this purpose.

New wings for plant pests

Since the great increase in air-cargo transportation, a proportionally large number of importations of various plants, plant products, seeds, fruits, rhizomes, corms, and bulbs have arrived rapidly from all parts of the world. The oat nematode is now included with the golden nematode and fruit flies in the category of the more important pests which may have been airborne to the USA.

"Eat potatoes and live long"

Uncle Joe Marshall, 80-year-old "potato king," came down from Idaho recently to attend the Texas Vegetable Growers and Shippers Convention and to boost the consumption of potatoes, according to the *Dallas USDA Club News*. Since somewhere back in 1908, says the news account, he has been growing the russet, now regarded as an ideal running mate for a good steak. And for healthy longevity he prescribes: "Eat plenty of spuds."

Spread of pink bollworm

Some slight increase in pink bollworm count in the Southwest has been noted by the Pest Control Branch, ARS, in examination of gin trash. In Missouri, however, no pink bollworms were found in 605 bushels examined. In Oklahoma, specimens were recovered for the first time in 15 counties. Arkansas studies found 19 bollworms in 3,817 bushels of gin trash. West Texas work not yet completed indicated some spread, and near Juarez, Mexico, the count showed 853 pink bollworms per bushel, against 503 in 1953.

New Editor

MILTON MANGUM will edit the next issue of *USDA*. Your present editor is retiring and "Milt" is taking his place. The new editor was born in Price, Utah. He grew up on a ranch in southern Utah where he herded sheep and "punched" cattle. During World War I, he served in the Marine Corps. Following his marriage to Vera Thomson, in 1922, he operated a farm near Rexburg, Idaho, for 15 years. Then he returned to school.

Milt first attended Ricks College at Rexburg, where he completed 2 years of high school and 2 years of college in 2½ years. He completed several courses in agriculture. He then enrolled at the Utah State Agricultural College at Logan, where in 1937 he received a B. S. degree. This was followed by a year at the University of Missouri School of Journalism at Columbia where he was graduated in 1938 with a Bachelor of Journalism degree.

He returned to Idaho and joined the staff of the Rexburg Journal and the Idaho Falls Post-Register. As Valley Editor, he edited and wrote news of the Upper Snake River country. He took up the job of farm supervisor, measuring land under the old AAA program. Here he met and worked with Dr. Byron T. Shaw, now Administrator of ARS.

Milt's first assignment in USDA information work was with the Utah State AAA Committee under Sid Nebeker, State Chairman, in March 1940. He was called to Washington, D. C., in 1943 to handle information work on the livestock and meat program of USDA.

He returned to Utah as Administrative Assistant for the Utah State PMA Committee in 1946. A year and a half later, he was called back to Washington to handle Agricultural Conservation Program information. When ACP was given agency status and "Service" added to the name, Milt was named Information Officer on the Administrator's staff.

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